Displays as a Digital Depository: Constitution Day Display 2022

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About Us

- Private Catholic liberal arts university with around 1,400 FTE.
- Library has 3.5 full-time staff, including government documents librarian.
- Digital depository that has been in FDLP since 1970.

Project Description:

- Creating exhibit for display case (the second one developed by the library) for Constitution Day
- Accompany similar programming for First Year Experience (FYE)
- Focus on civic engagement

Process:

Select Key Topics

- Founding Documents
- Voting Rights
- Students' Rights
- FDLP
- Title IX (50th anniversary)

Locate Materials

- Books in collection
- Weeded government documents
- Images from LOC, NARA, and the institution's yearbooks

Write Captions

- Context for students
- Relevance to their lives

Print & Mount

- Cardboard backing

DISPLAY CASE

Note: The display case's doors have thick inner frame, hence the gap in the middle of each shelf. Photos were taken with the doors open for better lighting – see **Lessons Learned**.

Digital Depository: Materials?

Since much of our government documents collection is digital, the materials below helped fill the display case with meaningful content:

- **Weeded documents** (added visual interest and propped up photos and captions)
- **Images from the National Archives and Library of Congress** (primary sources)
- **QR codes to government resources** (e.g., Constitution Annotated)

Localizing the Display

- If not a digital depository, add documents from the collection
- Add non-government materials that show impact of legislation, e.g., yearbook photos of women athletes post-Title IX
- Add materials tied to campus/community identity, e.g., book about voting and religion (Catholic affiliation)

Lessons Learned

Consider lighting

- LED tea lights?
- Battery-powered light strips?

Add interactive elements

- Scavenger hunt?
- QR code to a survey?

Localize content to your community

Find objects that add color and visual interest

- If possible, balance black and white and color images

Contextualize QR Codes

- Print images to accompany them? E.g., headers from websites, logos?

Have assessment plan

Plan for more content than you think you need

Assessment Measures

- Book checkouts
- Constitution Day LibGuide views
- *Missed opportunity:* using dynamic QR codes to measure clicks

Useful Resources

- FDLP / GODORT LibGuides, especially GODORT's Voting & Elections Toolkits
- Ben's Guide to the U.S. Government
- Digital collections of LOC, NARA (esp. America's Founding Documents), & U.S. House of Representatives
- University yearbooks