

# EXTENDING IMPACT: USING GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS TO ENRICH LIBRARY EXHIBITS, THEMED DISPLAYS, AND STUDENT RESEARCH

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Government publications are key for research needs! Government publications are an often underutilized resource for library advocacy and student research. This poster explores the role of government information in research exhibits, themed displays, and student research projects.

## 01. WHY INCORPORATE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

- **Unique Perspectives:** Government documents provide primary sources that cover historical, scientific, and policy-related topics.
- **Authoritative Data:** They offer factual, reliable, and comprehensive information directly from government agencies.
- **Broad Range of Disciplines:** Suitable for various fields like political science, economics, environmental studies, and public health.
- **Real-World Connections:** Engage students with real-world issues through historical reports, policy analysis, and scientific research.

### Curation Tips for Exhibits:

- Choose relevant and engaging themes
  - Mix older and contemporary documents for a broad view of topics
  - Use eye-catching visuals and interactive elements to draw interest
- ### Collaboration with Faculty:
- Work with faculty to align research with curriculum goals
  - Develop research assignments that encourage students to explore government publications as primary sources

## 03. GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS IN STUDENT RESEARCH

- **Value in Research Assignments:**
  - Government publications provide students with factual, primary-source materials that are often underutilized.
  - Offer insight into public policy, legal decisions, and scientific research directly from authoritative sources.
- **Disciplinary Use:**
  - **Political science:** Analysis of government policies, laws, and international relations.
  - **History:** Use of census data, military records, and governmental archives for historical research.
  - **Science:** Access to environmental studies, public health reports, and federal research.
- **Practical Application:**
  - Design assignments that encourage students to use government documents as foundational research materials.
  - Provide tutorials on accessing and utilizing government databases, such as the U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) and other open resources.

## 02. GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS IN ACTION!

- **Pride Month:**
  - Display government documents relating to LGBTQ+ rights, such as legal rulings, policies, and health data.
  - Highlight milestones in LGBTQ+ history through federal reports and legislative records.
- **Banned Books Week:**
  - Showcase government documents on censorship, freedom of speech, and banned literature.
  - Use court rulings and federal policies on intellectual freedom to foster discussions about censorship.
- **Indigenous Rights:**
  - Showcasing government publications centered around patents and other legal frameworks
  - Government sponsored research into indigenous communities



## 04. KEY TAKEAWAYS

- By combining historical and contemporary publications, you can draw attention to critical topics, offering students and visitors a richer perspective on various issues.
- Government publications serve as valuable primary sources for research, offering reliable, authoritative data on a wide range of subjects.
- Government publications can be integrated into research projects spanning disciplines such as political science, history, economics, and the sciences, encouraging collaborative and interdisciplinary learning experiences