

Transcript to accompany the recording about **Extending Impact: Using Government Publications to Enrich Library Exhibits, Themed Displays, and Student Research**

Hi. Thanks for taking the time to check out my poster all about extending impact using government publications to enrich library exhibits, themed displays, and student research. I'm Jessica Hawkes. I am the government information librarian here at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana, and I'm also the federal depository library program coordinator, for our campus. So we know that government publications are key in the research process, but they're often an underutilized resource, both for library advocacy and for student research.

This poster explores the role of government and government publications in research exhibits, theme displays, and student research process projects. Specifically, I'll outline some of the ways that I have utilized government publications into my research exhibits and displays, which just helps us to highlight some of the library resources, but I'll also talk about some of the ways that I've worked with students to incorporate government information into their research projects. So why incorporate government publications in the outreach and re and student research? There are a few great reasons for this. First, the ability to offer unique perspectives.

Government publications include a wide variety of primary source materials, and those sources cover historical, scientific, and policy related topics. Secondly, they offer authoritative data that is factual, reliable, and comprehensive. And next, the broad range of disciplines covered in government publications, that makes it an excellent choice for research exhibits and displays. There are tons of different subjects and disciplines that benefit from the incorporation of government publications into displays in research projects. And this includes things like political science, economics, environmental studies, and public health.

And, of course, government publications give us a chance to make real world connections with students. So by utilizing government publications at our at our disposal, we're able to engage students with real world issues, through the use of government And this may include things like historical reports, presidential orders, policies, and even scientific research. So to do this, there are a few areas that we can focus on. First up, curation tips for exhibits. 1st, we want to choose relevant and engaging themes.

In our area, I've always had great success in engaging students with hot topics, such as LGBTQIA plus rates, censorship, and even indigenous studies. But choose what works best for you and your campus. In my experience, it always works best to focus on issues like health, civil rights, or legislation, legislature or themed, displays. For example, if we're doing a display for women's history month, we might wanna bring in some legislative resources to help to highlight the theme. And these themed displays also help us to connect government, data to current societal issues for a deeper impact.

For example, in the past, I did a research based exhibit on women, from marginalized or underrepresented groups, and I was able to tie in presidential orders, government research surrounding specific marginalized groups, and even some general legislature just, that has to do with the topic. Also, remember to use a mix of older and contemporary publications for a broad view of this topic. This mix of documents also helps in keeping students engaged since you can present them in a variety of formats,

including just having physical items in the exhibit. But you can also have some digital items that are accessed via QR codes, for the students to be able to further explore the government publications. And, of course, we want to make sure that we are using eye catching visuals and interactive elements to draw attention to the to the display.

Another area that we might choose to explore is collaboration with faculty. So this is incredibly important if you want to highlight the use of government publications in student research. For this, it's important to work with the faculty to align, the research to curriculum goals. We're always going to get better buy in if we can clearly communicate how these efforts align with the curriculum. And, of course, we want to work with the faculty to develop those research assignments that encourage the exploration of government publications as primary and supporting source materials.

So what do government publications look like in action? So over the summer, I created a pride month research based exhibit, and this exhibit featured information on a variety of topics associated with pride month. Some of the focal points of this exhibit were the Stonewall uprising, the evolution of the pride flag, pride marches, and specifically pride efforts in Louisiana. So to support this exhibit, I was able to showcase a host of legal documents that kind of followed the trail of the evolution of pride month. This included some historical reports concerning LGBTQIA plus rights, and those communities, but it also included presidential orders concerning Pride Month.

And through this, I was able to highlight milestones in the LGBTQ LGBTQIA plus history through some federal reports and legislative records. Additionally, just last month, I prepared an exhibit about censorship for banned books speak. For this, I decided to showcase some government publications regarding, censorship. So this include a few documents, just about censorship in general, some specific documents on intellectual freedom, a few presidential orders, all kinds of, great resources like that. I also highlighted several, court rulings and federal policies on intellectual freedom just to help to foster discussions about censorship.

And right now, I am working on an exhibit about indigenous people, indigenous rights, and indigenous inventions. So for this, I'm showcasing government publications centered around patents and other legal frameworks. I'm also highlighting official, federal court rulings surrounding common issues in in indigenous rights, and this includes things like health care, climate change initiatives. And, of course, there is a wealth of information, featuring government sponsored research into indigenous communities that I've incorporated into this exhibit as well. And then we have government publications and student research.

So this is a venue of utilization that we may find challenging, challenging to explore to begin with, but there are many benefits to it. Government publications are great value to research assignments. These sources offer factual primary, so these these sources offer factual primary source materials, that we just aren't considering a lot of the time, but they also offer insight into public policy, legal decisions, and scientific research directly from authoritative sources. Because of the interdisciplinary aspect of government publications, it makes sense for us to use them for a wide range of disciplines. So a few of the more common ones are for political science, where if we can use some government policies and laws.

Then we have history where we can utilize that census data, military records, and governmental archives for historical research. And then, of course, we have, like, the sciences, or we might include

environmental studies, public health reports, and even some federal research. But these are just a few areas. For example, I've also worked 1 on 1, with students to incorporate things like FDA statistics, census data, and a wide range of legal and federal codes, just to incorporate that into their research. So a few takeaways.

By combining the historical and contemporary publications, we can draw attention to critical topics, offering students and visitors a richer perspective on various issues. Secondly, government publication serve as a valuable primary source for research, offering rely reliable and authority authoritative data on a wide range of subjects. And finally, government publications can be integrated into research projects, spanning disciplines such as political science, history, economics, the sciences, and this just helps to encourage collaborative and interdisciplinary learning experiences. So thank you, for listening. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at jessica.hawkes@nicholls.edu.

Thank you.