

A Model for Using FDLP Collections in Public Library Programming

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Why Programming with FDLP Collections?

Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) collections offer more than reference materials. They provide opportunities for public library programming that:

1. Promotes civic knowledge.
2. Connects current events with historical records.
3. Reaches audiences beyond traditional library users.
4. Demonstrates the persistent value of depository collections.

This poster presents a model for government information programming that has been successful at Dayton Metro Library.

Programming Model

Government Information > Identify Community Interest > Identify Relevant Government Sources > Create Programs > Expand Awareness of Government Information > Increase Civic Engagement

Federal Depositories are frequently involved in maintaining physical/electronic documents and files, research and reference requests.

Case Study #1: The Government Commons Program.

Goal - Create an ongoing civic literacy discussion using foundational government documents.

Resources Used - Constitution, Bill of Rights, Federalist Papers, Congressional materials, Supreme Court Cases.

Programs Delivered - *The Federalist Papers*: A discussion of the Federalist Papers which are a series of 85 essays written by Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison between 1787-1788.

***The Constitution*:** An exploration of our founding document, including history and beliefs of the framers.

***The Bill of Rights*:** Discovery of the first 10 amendments to the Constitution that limit government power and protect individual rights.

***The Reconstruction Amendments*:** An excursion into the later amendments that expanded democracy (17,19, 24, 26).

Case Study #2: Digital Tools for Government Archival Records with a focus on the recently-released JFK files)

Goal - Create a program where attendees will learn how to effectively use various Internet tools and resources to locate, access, and interpret declassified government records, using the recently-declassified John F. Kennedy files as a case study.

Resources Used - National Archives catalog, the CIA FOIA Reading Room and the FBI Vault.

Program Delivered - *Digital tools for Government Archival Records*

(photo: Martha Ballinger, "Dealey Plaza & Former Book Depository," 3/7/2024, author's personal collection.



Case Study #3: The Paranormal Government Files

Goal - Develop a program involving discovery of paranormal information through official government publications and resources, briefly touching briefly on official government information related to Project Stargate, Roswell, Project Blue Book, and the Department of Defense "Zombie Apocalypse" Contingency Plan.

Resources Used - CIA Reading Room, Catalog of Government Information, National Archives, Presidential Unsealing and Reporting System for UAP Encounters (PURSUE)

Program Delivered - *Paranormal Government Files*

Exploring the Programming Model

Government Information - Survey the information you have, explore preliminary ideas in government information; **Identify Community Interest** - Look for topics in your community and popular culture to begin your brainstorming: conspiracy theories, UFOS, American history, paranormal activity; **Identify Relevant Government Sources** - Many subjects of popular culture have corresponding federal information: National Archives, Government Publishing Office, Census Bureau, National Park Service, NASA, NOAA, Library of Congress, Department of Justice, FBI, CIA Reading Room, CDC, Smithsonian; **Create Programs** - Examples of programs are: The Government Commons, Digital Tools for Government Archival Records (with a focus on the recently-released JFK Files), The Paranormal Government Files. Focus on retrieving and evaluation of government documents/electronic information, demonstrate the research process; **Expand Awareness of Government Information** - Through exploration of the tools and resources for finding government information on topics of popular/community interest, participants will learn not only about the primary documents but also the government tools for accessing these documents; **Increase Civic Engagement** - With the knowledge that participants have gained, they can research many other subjects of interest and current events.