

Celebrating America's 250th with Government Information and Libraries

Jim Dan Hill Library, University of Wisconsin-Superior

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ABSTRACT

This poster reflects on a window display at the Link Center and the Jim Dan Hill Library celebrating America's 250th birthday. The display highlights the interconnectedness of government information and academic study at the University of Wisconsin-Superior (UWS). It features key federal agencies, including the Departments of State, the Interior, Agriculture, Transportation, Energy, and Health and Human Services, and illustrates their connections to various fields of study at UWS. As a Federal Depository Library for more than 90 years, the University of Wisconsin-Superior encourages users to explore these resources and discover how government data supports research and learning across disciplines

Overview of Display

Celebrating Independence Through Information and History

This Fourth of July display at the Link Center and Jim Dan Hill Library highlights the connection between U.S. government libraries and academic research. Thirteen stars, representing the original colonies, link federal library data sources with physical materials held by the library. Featured institutions include the Ralph J. Bunche Library (Department of State), Department of the Interior Library, National Agricultural Library, National Transportation Library, Office of Scientific and Technical Information (Department of Energy), and the National Library of Medicine (Department of Health and Human Services). Together, these collections showcase America's diplomatic history, land and resource management, agriculture, transportation, scientific innovation, and public health, demonstrating how government information supports learning, research, and a deeper understanding of the nation's past and present.

Partnership and Purpose

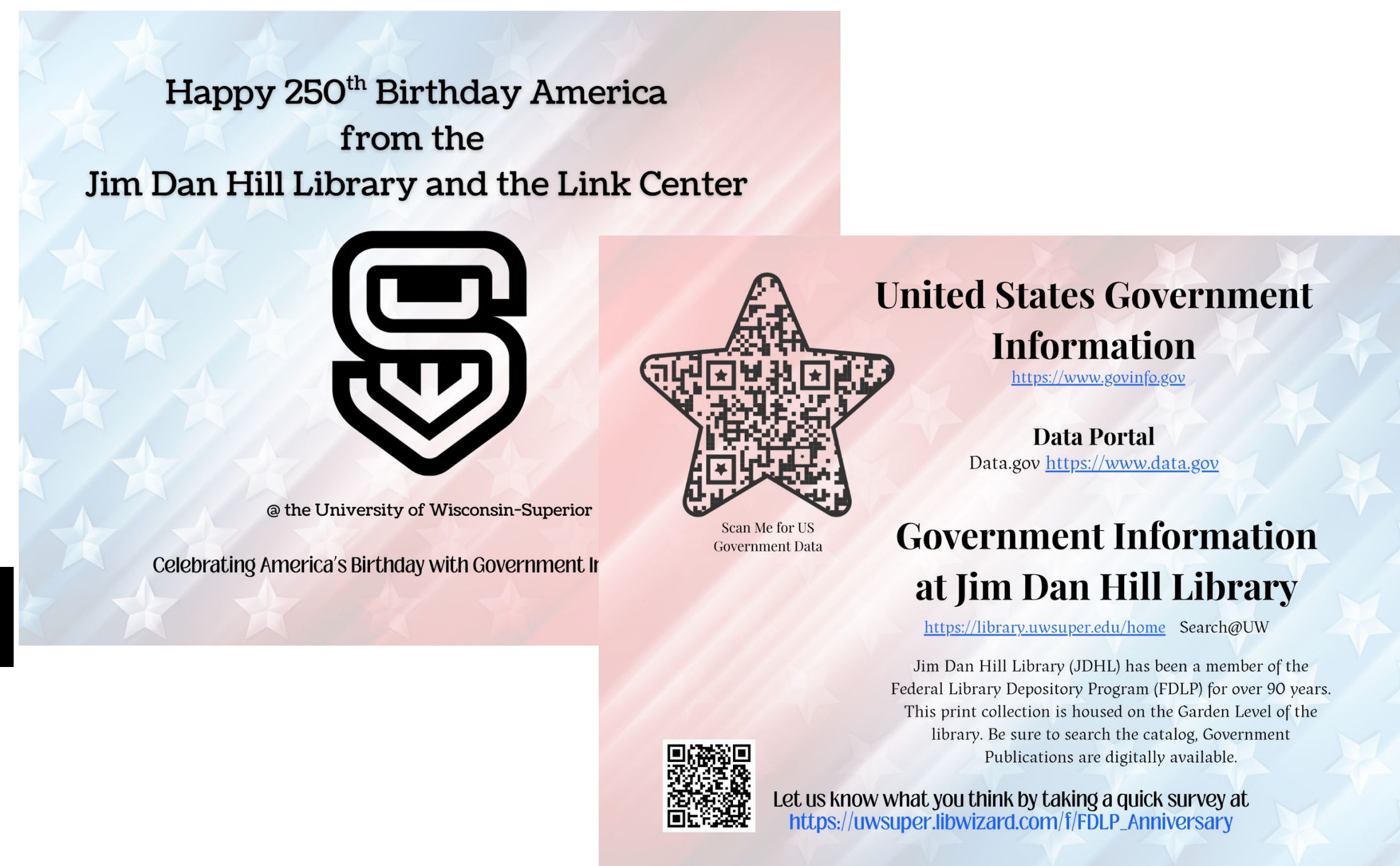
The Jim Dan Hill Library and the Link Center partnered to create a display celebrating America's 250th Birthday showcasing the role of government information in civic engagement and academic success. The display connected federal department libraries and data resources with materials from the library's collections.

The Link Center advances nonpartisan civic learning, voter engagement, and democratic participation by connecting students with resources, programs, and opportunities that support informed civic involvement. Through campus partnerships, the Link Center helps students develop the knowledge and skills needed to engage effectively in their communities.

Together, the Jim Dan Hill Library and the Link Center demonstrated how government information supports informed citizenship, academic research, and lifelong learning.

Display Highlights

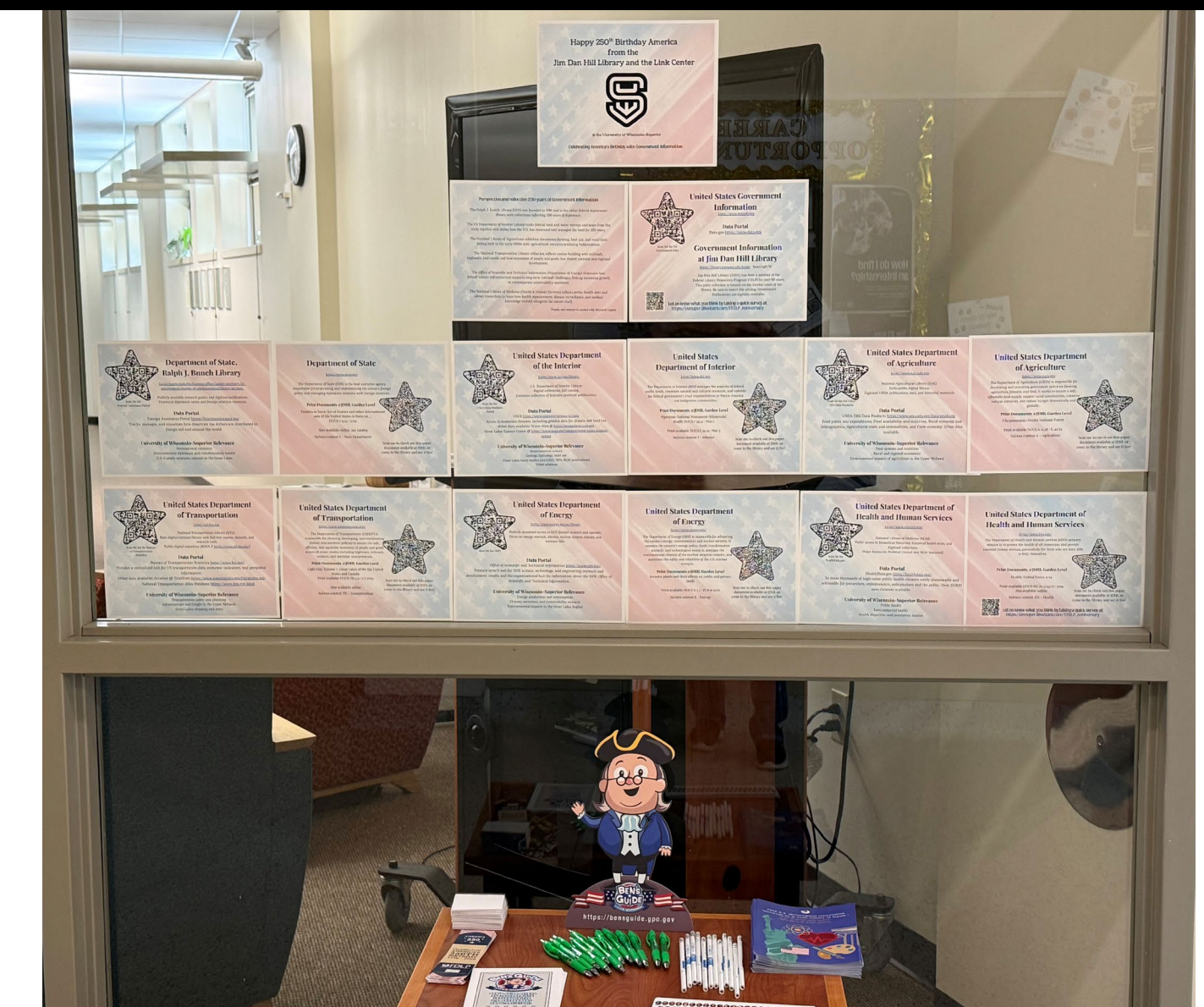
The display incorporated a patriotic stars-and-stripes design, featuring 13 QR code stars representing the original colonies and red, white, and blue elements inspired by the American flag. Arranged to resemble a flag waving in the breeze, the display visually reinforced the patriotic theme while encouraging interactive exploration of government information resources.



The display featured a variety of government information resources, including six United States government department libraries. Each department was represented by a star containing a QR code that linked to an available dataset. When additional datasets were available, those resources were also provided.

The display included information about the history and mission of each library and department, as well as their relevance to academic programs and areas of study at the University of Wisconsin-Superior. In addition, the exhibit highlighted print publications from each department that are available in the Jim Dan Hill Library Government Documents Collection. QR code stars linked directly to the library catalog and the corresponding bibliographic records for these documents.

Display as seen at the Link Center



Lessons Learned

The survey set up for the display was not utilized; however, the exhibit was on display during July, when fewer college aged students are on campus. The survey will be revised for future events and will hopefully see greater participation at those times.

The GPO give aways were a hit, with the green pens proving to be the clear favorite. Statistics were tracked to record how many items were distributed and how many were taken.

Our cardboard Ben was even sported a Buzz sticker on his lapel. Buzz is the University of Wisconsin-Superior mascot. The Library display was printed on clear vinyl cling material. While the concept was sound, the material made the display more difficult to see than anticipated.

Future Use

The display is now a Library Guide containing the same information. At the end of 2026, the guide will be incorporated into a larger Government Information Guide.

The display will be used again to support partnerships with the Link Center throughout the year.