

From Agencies to Answers:
Building an A-Z Government Information Discovery Tool
A new approach to connecting government information with curriculum & research

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Introduction

Government information provides authoritative resources for teaching, learning, & research, but discovery is complicated by its distribution across hundreds of federal agencies.

Using the Springshare A-Z Resource feature, this project developed a curated government information discovery tool that connects federal resources with teaching, learning, & research needs across the curriculum.

Background & Motivation



Challenges

- Government information is distributed across hundreds of websites & agencies.
- Students often begin research without knowing which agency is responsible for a topic.
- Large government discovery platforms can be overwhelming.
- Government resources are often underutilized.

Goals



- Improve discovery
- Support instruction & research
- Align with curriculum needs
- Increase visibility.
- Create a sustainable tool.

Selection & Curation

Collection Analysis



FDM/SuDoc Review



Agency Discovery



Gap Analysis



Selection Criteria

75 Agencies

University of Akron / LibGuides / A-Z Federal Government Departments & Agencies

A-Z Federal Government Departments & Agencies

A curated list of U.S. Federal government departments and agencies.

Search by keyword, subject or type

Name/Keyword Search

Subjects

Type

Search

75 Government Resources

All A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z #

A

Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is a branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that supports the marketing of agricultural products and promotes fair and efficient agricultural markets. Its website provides market news, commodity price data, agricultural statistics, reports, data dashboards, and research resources covering crops, livestock, dairy products, and specialty agriculture. The site also offers directories, regulatory information, grading and standards resources, procurement information, and tools for producers, researchers, businesses, and policymakers.

Agriculture Department (USDA)

About

This curated list highlights selected U.S. government departments, agencies, and bureaus that support teaching, learning, or research across the curriculum at The University of Akron. Resources were selected for their relevance to academic programs, research needs, and government information collections.

Quick Facts

- 75 curated government resources
- Coverage across 30+ academic disciplines
- Includes data, statistics, reports, publications, maps, and other

Metadata & Content

Springshare LibGuide A-Z Asset Record

Name *

Veterans Health Administration (VHA)

URL *

https://department.va.gov/vha/

Use Proxy? @
☐ Yes ☒ No

Friendly URL

https://libguides.uakron.edu/vha/

Description *

StylesParagraphA1A2A3A4A5A6A7A8A9A10A11A12A13A14A15A16A17A18A19A20A21A22A23A24A25A26A27A28A29A30A31A32A33A34A35A36A37A38A39A40A41A42A43A44A45A46A47A48A49A50A51A52A53A54A55A56A57A58A59A60A61A62A63A64A65A66A67A68A69A70A71A72A73A74A75A76A77A78A79A80A81A82A83A84A85A86A87A88A89A90A91A92A93A94A95A96A97A98A99A100

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA), a component of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, operates the nation's largest integrated healthcare system and provides medical services to eligible veterans. The site offers information on healthcare programs, mental health services, medical research, patient care, public health initiatives, and healthcare policy. These resources support research in medicine, nursing, public health, psychology, healthcare administration, and veterans' issues.

All Names

Keywords

public policy, mental health, veterans health

Associated Subjects

Allied Health Counseling Gerontology Nursing Psychology Public Health Social Work

Thumbnail (Browse Image Manager)

Thumbnail Alt Text

Type *

☒ Agency ☐ Branch ☐ Bureau ☐ Department ☐ Publication ☐ Publication/Service ☐ Service

Example of a Curated Agency Entry Within the A-Z Tool

V

Veterans Health Administration (VHA)

Keywords: public policy, mental health, veterans health

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Landing Page for an Individual Resource Entry

Veterans Health Administration (VHA)

Access Government Resource

Keywords: public policy, mental health, veterans health

Subjects: Allied Health, Nursing, Psychology, Social Work, Counseling, Gerontology, Public Health

Type: Agency

Description

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA), a component of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, operates the nation's largest integrated healthcare system and provides medical services to eligible veterans. The site offers information on healthcare programs, mental health services, medical research, patient care, public health initiatives, and healthcare policy. These resources support research in medicine, nursing, public health, psychology, healthcare administration, and veterans' issues.

Customized Description Guides Users to Research Resources

Social Security Administration (SSA)

Keywords: aging, veterans, demographics, disability insurance, economic security, poverty, retirement, SSI

The Social Security Administration (SSA) administers retirement, disability, and survivor benefit programs for eligible individuals and families. The site provides program information, demographic and economic statistics, policy research, actuarial reports, and publications on aging, disability, retirement, and social insurance programs. Researchers may find the greatest value in SSA's **Research, Statistics & Policy Analysis** section, which provides statistical reports, policy briefs, research publications, and state- and county-level data. Learn more through [SSA Research, Statistics & Policy resources](#).

Findings

Benefits	Challenges	Opportunities
☐ Improved visibility of government information ☐ Curriculum-focused discovery ☐ Supports multiple research skill levels ☐ Encourages interdisciplinary exploration ☐ Reusable content structure	☐ Defining project scope ☐ Identifying appropriate agencies ☐ Maintaining consistency across descriptions ☐ Balancing detail with brevity ☐ Developing useful subject & keyword structures	☐ Additional agencies & programs ☐ Integration into instruction ☐ Subject guide linking ☐ Faculty outreach ☐ Assessment & user feedback

Next Steps

Sustainability & Growth

Assessment
Feedback
Usage review
Promotion

Library communications

Social media
Faculty outreach
Instruction sessions

Expansion

Additional agency records
Guide integration
Cross-linking opportunities

Takeaways

Curriculum +
Collection Development +
Government Information =
Discovery Tool

Learn More

