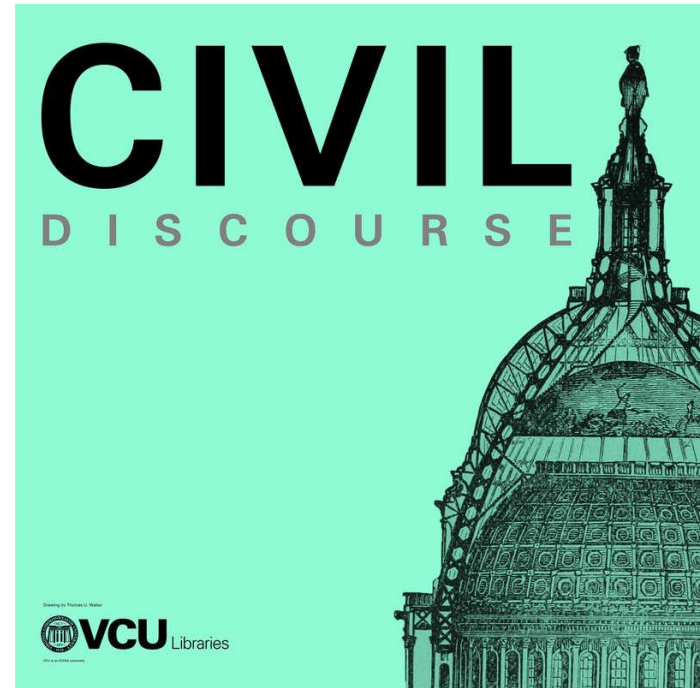
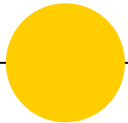


Podcasting Using Government Documents

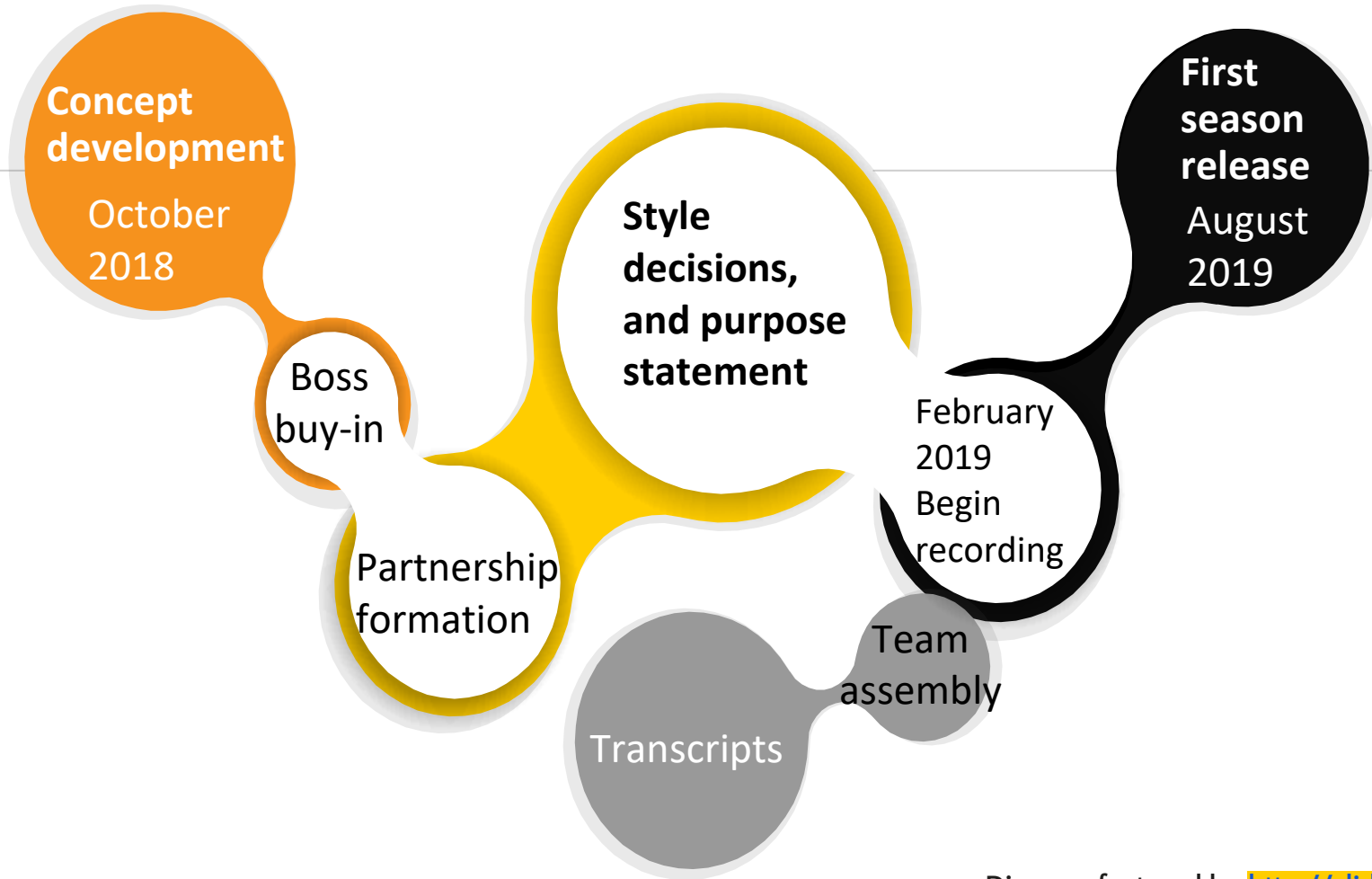
Stephani (Nia) Rodgers
Virginia Commonwealth University
FDLP Webinar, July 2020





It takes a village





The rest is easy!*



* Mostly, but I'm trying not to scare you.



There is only 1 real FAQ:

What is your podcast about?





Content Aspects

- ① Locate base content
- ① Tailor to your ideal audience if possible
- ① Purpose of your podcast
- ① Style
- ① Partnership



Locate Content for Your Podcast

Individual Federal Documents

We started with the U.S. Constitution, but we use other documents as we run into them.

Twitter, Facebook, Etc.

Follow various agencies and use their posts as a basis to start a conversation.

GPO New Titles

From the CGP, the New Titles tab. Priceless!

SCOTUSblog

Find and use devoted content from experts in the field as a starting point.

RSS Feeds

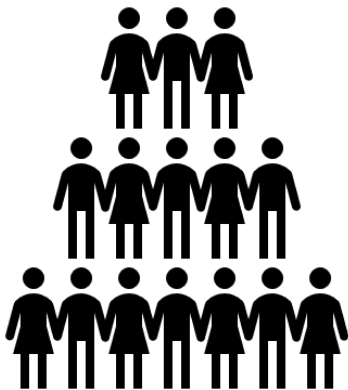
Sign up for RSS feeds from various agencies to get their latest press releases.

Newspapers

Try to look at the local papers for coverage of local, regional, and state news to feed the hunger.



Our Audience

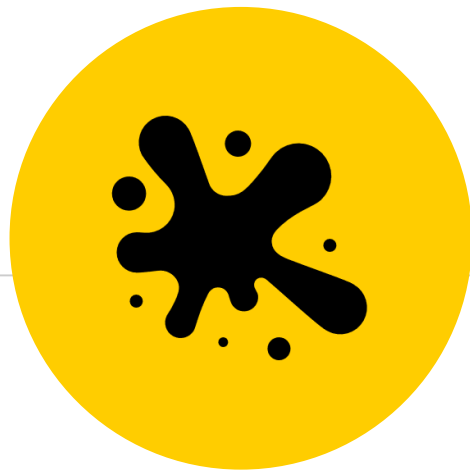


- Faculty
- Undergrads and graduate students
- Gov Docs community
- Public



Podcast as Public Teaching |

One of the responsibilities of Gov Docs librarians is to engage the public in educational opportunities.



Discovering Your Style

Are you formal? Informal? Scripted? Unscripted?
Adult? Kid-friendly? Geeky? Funny?



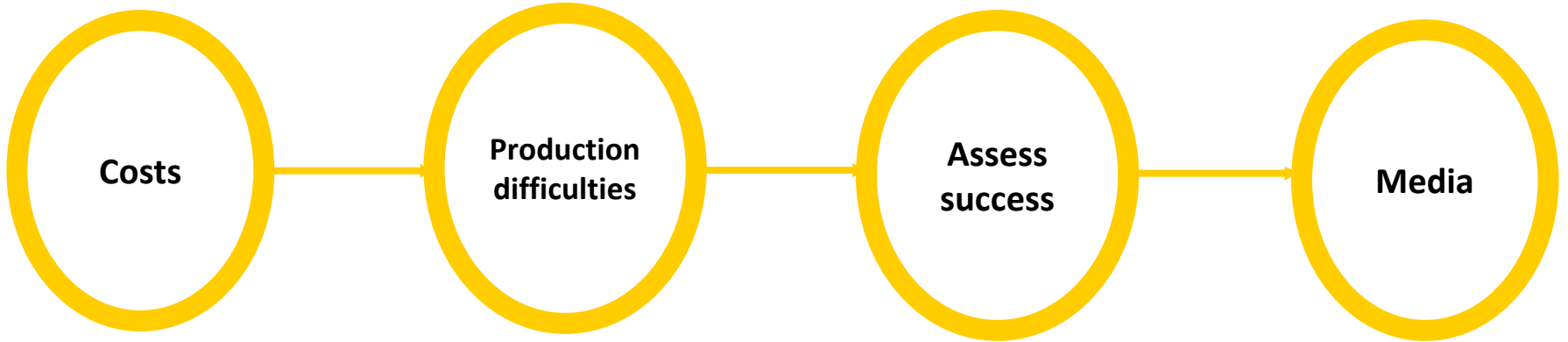
Not Possible to Overstate...

...the importance of a partnership. That person acts as your safety net, sounding board, conversation partner, and the person that talks you off the ledge. Get a really good partner. 😊





Technical Aspects





Resource expenditures can be high, depending on style

Low

- Iphone or Android for recording
- Free software (Garageband, etc) to edit
- Local publishing

Medium

- Formal recording device / closet
- Low cost or free software for editing
- Account to publish

High

- Soundproofed Room, better recording equipment
- Software, sound engineer for editing
- Transcriptions
- Account to publish

Software updates that crack deadlines.

Transcripts that don't come back on time or are not usable.

Production difficulties

You can't get the room booked in time for recording.

Resources or people become unavailable.

Your workload suddenly goes bonkers.

Equipment failures!



Assessment is hard

Qualitative

- Strong partnerships
- Leads to other projects
- Anecdotes
- Conversation opener!

Quantitative

- Number of downloads in Transistor
- Number of views on Scholar's Compass
- Number of views of research guide
- Geography of listeners

Getting the word out

- ◎ Social media
- ◎ Professors announce in class
- ◎ Print materials
- ◎ Presentations like this one!





World Domination





How I Think of Podcasting

Learn stuff

Have fun

Build
connections



Takeaways

Concept Development

Make sure you are completely clear on what you are trying to accomplish with your podcast

Resources

Transcripts are not cheap; the equipment can have various levels of sticker shock.

Partnership

Podcasting, at least for me, is best enjoyed as a team sport. Get a partner, collaborate the heck out of it.

Numbers Aren't Everything

Name recognition for a librarian with their faculty is as important as the number of listeners.

Team

You need support from colleagues and administration to keep it going.

Fun

You'll spend an awful lot of blood, sweat, and tears on this podcast – make sure you are having more fun than not.



Thanks!

*Any **questions** ?*

You can find me at

- slrodgers@vcu.edu
- <https://guides.library.vcu.edu/discourse>



Credits

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

- Presentation template by [SlidesCarnival](#)
- Photographs by [Unsplash](#) and Kate Condon
- Headshots courtesy of Virginia Commonwealth [University](#)