

Color and Play: Learn and Have Fun With Government Coloring Books and Games For All Ages - Transcript

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So our presenter today, Jane Canfield, has presented many webinars for us and will do so in the future as well. Let me read a little bit about Jane. She is the coordinator of federal government information and documents at the pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico. She has 40 years of experience in the library field and started her career as a public library and, moved into school libraries, taught six years in the Inter-American University Graduate school of Library, information appliances, or does the Director of a library at a post secondary vocational school, and arrived at her current job in 2007 she fell in the love with the world of government documents and taken on the special tasks of promoting documents that exist in other languages, especially Spanish, is 100% of her users are native Spanish speakers. With that I will hand the virtual microphone over to Jane who will take it from here.

Okay. Good afternoon to everyone and welcome. I still see the Federal Depository Library Program side, there I see mine. Welcome to a webinar that is intended to be purely fun and entertaining. I came across this idea when I happened in the course of preparing other webinars to find a couple of coloring books that different government agencies have done and came up with the idea that it would be fun to look at what is out there coloring books and games from the government. Sit back, relax, and enjoy a summer afternoon having fun with this webinar.

This is my contact information, and a few pictures of my library. Do not hesitate that if you would like a copy of the PowerPoint of this presentation, send me an email and I would be happy to send it to you coloring books I am presenting today in PDF format so if you want one let me know, and I can send you the PDF format also. Let's get started. So in the course of doing this I said I like to color, I colored as a kid, I assume all of us had coloring books as children. I can certainly remember, and I bet some of you can, wanting that huge box of Crayola 64 crayons I think the boxes are bigger now I'm according to my grandchildren there are some that have hundreds of crayons, but I can remember wanting that box of 64 Crayola crayons for my coloring book.

As an adult, I a couple of years ago took up coloring again just because it was fun and I kept seeing interesting adult coloring books. Coloring can have some benefits in your life. It can reduce anxiety, it can help combat depression. I have a quote from a scholarly article on coloring books becoming mindful in the effectiveness of using coloring books to increase mindfulness and decrease anxiety. Coloring books, and the use of mandalas, a coloring book that is out there, is a method of alleviating stress and anxiety, improving mood and for those of us all coming off our COVID pandemic experience, that would probably be a pretty good thing. Also it is just fun. It is fun to color, you can go back to being a child for a little while. And an added benefit, if you are in the library and you download and print pages from one of those government coloring books, you are going to attract patrons of all types who will come over and say what are you doing?

You can show them which will lead into also providing more information about government documents and what we all do, and our jobs. It can be a lead-in to get people interested in government information who are curious about why you are coloring in the library. Okay, these are a couple of articles that I found on the benefits of coloring. This particular one is Cognitive and Effective Benefits of Coloring from

two different studies. And this was the search for the benefits of coloring the national Library of medicine, which returned 4000 results of articles on the possible benefits of coloring.

Most having to do with creating mindfulness and calming anxiety. Here is another couple of articles that you can go look at on the benefits of coloring, including one in older adults. So where did I go to find the information on government coloring books and games? I went to USA.gov to the catalog of government publications, and I also went to the GPO book store, which has some coloring books. Some are free and some have a small price to order.

What did I find? In USA.gov I found coloring books on amazing topics. Science, the environment, humanities, history. We will go live in a little bit at the end of my presentation to take a look at some of those. The catalog of U.S. government publications I found 138 references and documents having to do with coloring books

What are some of the really fun coloring books that I found. We will go look at some of these from my desktop at the end of my presentation as well. I found a great coloring book on the mechanical garden, excuse me, botanical garden, and another on food safe activities in the case of this one. It is from the GPO bookstore and has a small price. You can order it.

I found coloring books on brain health and other health interests. Get Excited About The Brain. I found books in Spanish, and in the case of this one, Color kept me Safe is SCDC one on staying safe, with both English and Spanish version, which I downloaded. And now this is the best of all, and I cannot claim thanks on this one, it is to Suzanne Caro who did so and the link is here, it is Friends Don't Use Friends As They are The. Who knew there was such a coloring offering from the National Park Service. And the National Park Service as a number of other coloring books including a fun one on Archaeology ABCs.

I found state and regional resources on coloring and activity books from the state of Texas on the Texas wildlife coloring book, from Illinois, a year of wildlife, and in this case up at the Spanish version title up. And from the state of Louisiana, a coloring book explaining the state of Louisiana, which I admit to having a fondness for since I am originally from the state of Louisiana. But there are also lots of states and regional coloring books out there describing everything from parks to safety, to education that you can take advantage of. I found history publications, in the case of this one it is from the Catalog of Government Publications. It is a coloring book that explained the Emancipation Proclamation is 150th anniversary from the national archives.

I found a fascinating article on coloring books used as protests and satire. Long before the current craze of the years beginning in the late 90s of adult going books, and the 1960s, and this article is from a Smithsonian magazine article and the link is here there were adult coloring books that were put out as satire in the 1960s against conformism, against John F. Kennedy and the Soviet Union. There was one coloring book against the John Birch Society. They were used as protests and as satire. Satire for the years of the 1960s, in which we have the Vietnam War protest, in which we had civil-rights unrest.

It is really well worth looking at this article. It is in the Smithsonian magazine and you can see the for coloring books, while they are fun and interesting, and relieving of anxiety, have also had this particular use of being a version of protest and satire. You can color in Spanish. I actually found more coloring books in Spanish than I thought I would find. I have passed many of these on to friends his children are going I am bored, it is summer. They have included one on fires from Sesame Street, and there is one on your health with milk, and one on Wally the bear. The particular one here is from the Catalog of

Government Publications and it was produced by FEMA. It is easily available and also available in the English language version.

Before we go live and look at some of the sites, I also looked for games. Not just a video games but boardgames, and many of the games I found from the government are online and come from our science agencies. They are interactive. Gameplaying benefits is they develop dexterity and hand eye coordination, aid in retention of content, particularly for children who are adults that have prominently those issues with learning disabilities, they make learning fun and entertaining, they can provide visual and auditory learning simulation. They are fun to play. They can help improve memory retention. There is a link to video games, which we frequently hear negative things about, and it contributes to improving mental memory in older adults.

I did not find as many games as I found coloring books, but there are games available. I searched the catalog of government publications and only found 16, but a search under games for children found 39. This is the case where varying your search terms will turn up different things in terms of what games you will find.

There were multiple games when I searched for games. This was on USA.gov. From NASA to Noah to all kinds of agencies. These are some of the things I turned up. There is NASA science for kids or NASA Space Place, with multiple games from NASA. You can practice going to Mars or practice being an astronaut or practice on being on different planets or practice being an astronomer. And there are games from NOAA under a site called SciJinks that is all about the weather. There are games that are serious from the National Institute for Drug Abuse. There are games and activities to teach teenagers about the problems associated with varying kinds of drug and alcohol abuse.

Get out your colors and get out your game night popcorn and let's go look at a few of these. I am going to share my desktop. Okay, let's see if I can now get to. Let's go to the U.S. government bookstore. I have put coloring books in the search already to give you an idea of what is there. When I search for coloring books I find Think Toy Safety to teach kids about toy safety. There is an activity book on Chesapeake Bay. Also an activity book to being wise about being out in the sun too much. Other books that come in between, here is the famous Squeaks book, it is not a coloring book, but it is a cool book for learning about printing.

If you keep going, these are mixed with other books as well. Here is the activity book on food safe families.

So there are within the United States government bookstore books on coloring books available through the bookstore. I am going to put in games and see what the U.S. government bookstore has. When you search for games in any government site you will find information on wargames, because that is a topic the United States government covers, but you also find things like Understanding Marine Debris, Discover My Plate Vegetables diary. And also The Two Bite Club. And you will find things that are fun and interesting. I will open this one called The Two Bite Club to see what it is about. It is an E publication from the Department of Agriculture, the Food and nutrition service, it is free so no cost. You can download it for free. It also has a Spanish version.

In many instances when you look at the English version you will find the information is also therefore the Spanish version, and a few instances for other languages for those who are speakers of Spanish who use libraries. And even a for other products like MyPlate Meal, I will go there and look it is an e-book

and it teaches about the five food groups. That is really much assertion the U.S. government bookstore for coloring books and for games. I am going to go to the GPO catalog. I will put in coloring books. There are 138 records in the most recent in 2019, Atlantic and Short nose Surgeons coloring and activity book, and mighty many microbes tale, NASA fund had, which was a physical publication. Then there was the Sesame Street fire safety program in Spanish and English. I will go take a look at Mini Microbes Tale, click on that address and you can then go to the document and download or look at the document.

If you have Adobe Acrobat installed your computer will ask if you'd like to open in Acrobat, you can download with the arrow here, and you can print if you would like to print. As you see here, Mighty Mini Microbes Tale. And here is the coloring book. This is from the USDA natural resources conservation service, a story about soil microbes and it is also a coloring book. There are many such coloring books that are both a story and education, as well as being a coloring book. I'm going to the Sesame Street fire safety program color and learn. Just to give you another example. Sesame Street Fire Safety, using the Sesame Street characters. It tells you what is hot and what you should stay away from. It has you make your own home fire escape map. It talks about smoke alarms and exits, but it is also a coloring book which tells you how to get out of a building on fire. A nice educational experience while also being a coloring book.

Now I am going to go back to the catalog. Games into the catalog of U.S. government publications and when I put in games I got more about wargames and set of children's games. So instead I put games for children and that worked. I got The Adventures of Splash and/. And building blocks for healthy future, I also got information on things like Senate committees, and in this case the impact of media violence on children, I got information on serving up my plate, a yummy curriculum standards based nutrition program. I got pictures, puzzles and problems. I got letterboxing adventures, Jr. Ranger activity which you are the detective in search of a hidden letterbox.

I will open this one so you can take a look at it. In this case you are learning about the rules of this game, how to use a Kompas, and you are sent off with the Kompas to look for hidden letterbox is within the game. This is a game that teaches you how to use a compass and makes it fun. I will go to the next page. Now here is what's in the game? A Senate committee hearing on regulating violent video games. Building blocks for a healthy future which is a family guide with games in it. Just an idea, this is from the Ready campaign, this has to do with planning for disasters. This is archived for a number of dates you can go to. Now I'm going to USA.gov and I have USA.gov in Spanish because I tend to use it frequently in Spanish, I will switch to English. First we will look for games.

USA.gov was the best source that I found of finding games and coloring books. In this case we have games from NASA, games from ready.gov, games from the U.S. meant that teach about financial resources. And here from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Name That State game, I wonder how many of us could do this. Hopefully most of us. There are games on the environment, games on drug abuse, and games from other places as well. Games and challenges from the National Park Service, games from Smithsonian magazine. It has a daily word search jumble and the like. There is significant information here on games. I'm going to go back to and I am going to ready.gov. Living in Puerto Rico and we are into hurricane season, disasters are on my mind. I will see what kind of games ready.gov has for kids. We have Disaster Master, you can be part of the team facing everything from a fire at home to earthquakes. You are on a mission with the Build a Kit Game and you're on a mission to build an emergency kit. Let's check that out. Held a kit game. Play now.

It doesn't want to open. Here we go. I am in the bedroom and it says choose up to eight items in the bedroom, then click ready. I think we will find out which ones belong in a disaster kit. I am going to take soccerball and I will take my goldfish, and I will take socks and a jacket. I'll take a shirt and extra pants, some boots, and maybe my radio. Now I've got it. I will click on ready. It says you have got under clothes, warm clothes and Sirte shoes. But you have picked things that require electricity and they take up too much space. Then you can play again until you find eight items in your bedroom that would be appropriate for a disaster kit.

I'm going back to USA.gov, because I want to look at coloring books as well. Here we go, for coloring books USA.gov. We have coloring books on the environment, we have NASA coloring books, we have coloring books from the U.S. botanical garden, I will click on it. You get the U.S. botanical garden and you get a coloring page. But if you keep scrolling down, you get a tentacle garden coloring book. You will be inspired by this, because it has to do with what is in the garden. The first one is garden court. This includes plans we could not live without. It has plans from the Mediterranean. Orchids. It has a page on medicinal plants with a little more information about each kind, plants from the desert. Away. A primeval garden. These are plants that are ancient plants, like ferns. How plants adapt. The tropics. In addition to being a really fun coloring book for adults or children, it teaches you a little bit about different kinds of plants that are in the botanical garden. It is a favorite of mine. Now I'm going to turn to USA.gov. I have this from the CDC to teach about diabetes. From the National Park Service there is a prehistoric life coloring book. There are NASA coloring pages from Space Place. And one on endangered species and then the Louisiana coloring book for the state of Louisiana. Here is one on getting excited about the brain. Here is one on beekeeping for the state of West Virginia.

And one from Tennessee which is a wildlife activity book. One on Las Vegas. And one on designing a coloring book on smoky, a coloring book on the weather. There is a coloring book on Family Court. There are a number of coloring books on a wide variety of topics listed. I'll open this one on whether. This is a disaster preparedness coloring book, which is a lot more fun than just reading stuff about putting together my emergency kit. I can color it. Fire, hurricane, flood, thunderstorm. Tornado, earthquake, winter storm. Natural disaster. It explains simply what natural disasters are and understanding them. It has pictures to illustrate fire, tornado, flooding, winter storms. Emergencies and very simple information on teaching children about emergency preparedness. Here within the coloring book a fun way to put your name, your phone number, the ambulance number, fire and police. Your mother and your father and any other important contact information. Then it covers all of the disasters. Fire, color by age and you can but we are meeting places, having gone through an earthquake, we know how meeting place after an earthquake was at the University. Thunderstorms. Hurricanes and what you need to do.

Also coloring pages to illustrate what you do to prepare for the hurricane, the floods. This is again some fun to do, but also educational.

Now I am going to the NOAA SciJinks which is their games playing weather site. And NOAA has games about the weather, hurricanes, clouds, tides and oceans, atmosphere, satellites and whether in space. All of these are different the different games that teach about the weather, and we have jigsaw puzzles. Let's look at whether jigsaw puzzles. These jigsaw puzzles show events and have a big impact on your life. Here are the pictures. You can read the text and look at the pictures without. But if you want to do the puzzle you do here, click here to play.

It is not wanting to open it because I am missing on this computer the app to do so but you can download the app and play whether jigsaw puzzles. We also have satellite insight, flight controller wild

weather adventure, when disaster strikes, and there is Whether Trictionary, let's try that. How much do you know about the weather around you? What is the greenhouse effect? You get to choose an answer and you get to check your answer. Maybe it is number two, the camouflage effect of painting the house. It's probably the first. Warming of the planet. I will check my answer. Yes I got it correct. Now information about the greenhouse effect. Next question. I live in Puerto Rico so I know nothing about cold-weather. A backdoor call for, sneaks in during the summer, close to the back door, moves from the Northeast, I'll try this, moves from the Northeast instead of the usual Northwest. Let's give that a try. Check answer, oh, I got it right. It explains to me what a backdoor call front is. A few illustrations of the kinds of things you can do with games and coloring books just to have some fun. I am going to stop sharing my desktop. I go back to my presentation.

As soon as we are back at my university in person, and that will probably be January, which has more to do with us at this point with earthquake damage being repaired and remodeling than it does with COVID. As soon as I can, I will download, print, and set up a physical exhibit illustrating and highlighting some of these coloring books and games. I think it would be a really fun way when we go back to classes in person to attract students to take a look at government information. Many of my students, and many of your patrons and students, also think government information is boring, and it isn't. One of my first goals when I get back is to set up an exhibit highlighting this information on coloring books and games to see if I can attract some new friends of government information. Thank you very much for sharing game on coloring day with me. Including a picture here that when you ask me for the PowerPoint or you go to the FDLP Academy for your certificate and for the slides if you work in a library you probably enjoy coloring this picture.

Get out your colors, get out your popcorn and put on your gameplaying hat and coloring her for a while and enjoy a little summer. After a long year of COVID pandemic, I think we all enjoy a little fun. With that I'm open any questions that might be in the chat box, Joe.

Jane, thank you. Another fantastic webinar. As I said earlier, check the chat box with comments, we will be addressing questions. If you want to see the chat later on, with the reporting that is out tomorrow the next day, flip through the slides and see the chat. Here is a question. If the items are free, selling books and games, does that mean we have rights to make copies and share with patrons?

Okay --

Not sure how government copyright works.

As I understand it, government information that is free has no copyright attached. Let's say have purchased a five dollar book from the GPO bookstore, I cannot say that is subject to copyright. I question we should all probably find. I generally do not know. I know that if it comes to us, and it is a document out there which is free, as far as I know there would be no restriction whatsoever on bringing these coloring books and passing them out to patrons. They are free on the website to download and use. If you purchase from the GPO bookstore, Joe or Jamie do either of you have an idea? I don't know if I can honestly or safely answer that question. On the coloring books and the games that are there that are interactive and free, as far as I know you are free to make as many copies and share them as you would like.

I think you're pretty much right on that Jane. And Jaime Hays is copyright expert but for the most part you're right.

Joe?

Yes. Spimming Jaime Hays GPO, whatever document you're looking at you should check it, if there is a copyright it will typically say copyright somewhere in the document. But otherwise generally it is free of copyright.

Thank you for that example.

Yes. If it is something that you purchased for sure check and see if it says copyright, sounds like that's the best way to do it.

Maria asks if you have found any coloring or games to materials related to libraries?

Nothing popped up. But I did not do that specific search. Off the top of my head I would suggest going to USA.gov, search for library coloring books, or library games, or map games or map coloring books to see what you find.

Kathy says I was wondering about that with Sesame Street characters. Interesting, if anyone uses Sesame Street characters with copyright issue.

I think again following -- well I assume it is some right at some point. The government agency that did the fire safety book, have the rights or purchased the rights or had an agreement with Sesame Street characters. And I think that Jaime Hays made the perfect suggestion. If you are not sure check the document to see if there is a copyright note.

Okay. I said I would not do this but I will say this, Deborah said you could try the keyword search activity book and the National Park Service especially likes that phrase.

Yes good idea. Any more questions for Jane?

Is the questions about the slides and they will be on the FDLP Academy. I will put it into the chat. What happens with the FDLP Academy slides, the links are not always inactive because they are PDF format. If you want a copy of my PowerPoint I will put my address in the presentation. I will also put my email address in the chat box so it is there. If you'd like a copy of the actual PowerPoint, write me and I will send it.

Angela made a good comment in the chat. Check it out at the bottom. Any more questions for Jane? Let me make a few wrap-up comments. Keep the questions coming as we have a few more minutes. First I do want to thank Jane for great webinar, she's done many in the past and will do more in the future. Also my is deemed colleague Jaime Hays with great work of tech support and giving us copyright information. We have two more webinars in June. The next is tomorrow, Wednesday June 23rd. National Agriculture Libraries And will Welfare Information Center and animal welfare in legislation. A great webinar if you're concerned about anything concerned to animal safety and care. Please tune it in.

If you sign up for news and events email alert service on FDLP.gov, from the bottom of the FDLP Academy webpage link is in the index section, at the bottom of that page, you can view a calendar of upcoming webinars and other events, access pass webinars and link to a web form to volunteer to

present a webinar. Please put the satisfaction survey in the chat box if you would please. And also the other links to the repository that I sent, and there it is. Please fill out the satisfaction survey. Jaime Hays will have links to the fire repository you can search for past webinars. Easy to search and pull up the most recent, I think we have the last three years. Please check it out. Also volunteer if you want to present a webinar and anything related to the FDLP Academy, please volunteer. Would love to have you. Any last questions? I will wait just a little longer to give you a chance to get into that survey.

Does not look like we have any last questions. You have covered everything Jane, as usual. I think I can close things out.

You are welcome.

Thank you Jane, thank you audience, please contact FDLP Academy for more great webinars and come back tomorrow as we have another terrific one for you. Have a great rest of the day everyone. We need James email, it is in the chat box.

I will place it again.

She will do it one more time. There it is, can you see that? Okay great.

It is in it.

We are not seeing the chat box.

Would you try one more time?

I will try one more time. You know what I was set on send it to all panelists. Now I have all attendees. It should show up. My humble apologies for being set in the wrong place for it it should show up now. And it is also on the second slide when the slides are posted in the FDLP Academy. And now people say they have gotten it.

I will close this out. Thanks again Jane,, back to the FDLP Academy for more great webinars. Have a great rest of your day.

[Event concluded]