

# **OPEN GOVERNMENT: USING FEDERAL DOCUMENTS TO BUILD AND ENHANCE OPEN EDUCATION RESOURCES**

**Jessica Hawkes  
Government Information Librarian  
Nicholls State University**



# ➡➡➡ AGENDA

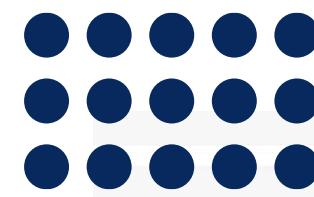


- Overview of Open Education
- OER and Government Information
- Food Safety and Sanitation OER Project
- World Regional Geography OER Project
- Locating and Integrating Federal Resources
- Copyright, Attribution, and Ethical Reuse
- Collaboration, Sustainability, And Scaling OER Projects
- Q&A



# WHERE OPEN EDUCATION MEETS GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

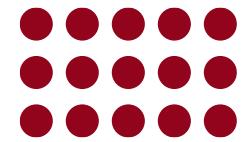
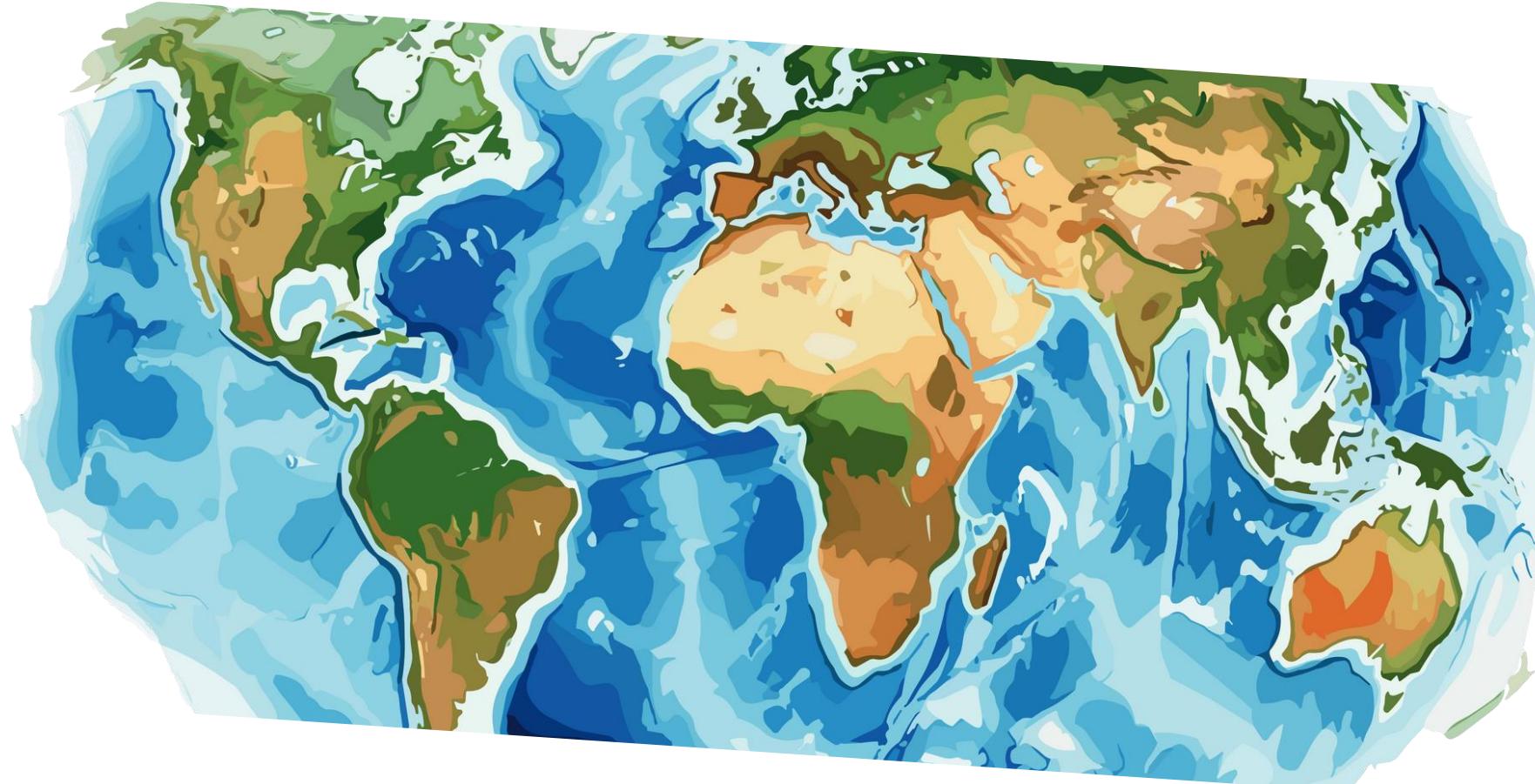
- OER = open, adaptable, equitable instructional resources
- Shared goals: access, transparency, and public service
- Libraries as transformational agents in both movements



# WHY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION IS BORN OPEN

- Federal documents = public domain
- Authoritative, multidisciplinary, data-rich
- Ideal for integration into open textbooks and learning objects
- Librarians can help translate raw content → pedagogical resources

# WORLD REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY



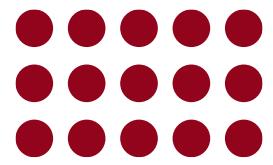
- Louisiana Board of Regents OER Project (2023/2024 Cohort)
- Collaborative faculty development across disciplines
- Integration of open maps, demographic data, and government resources
- Sources: Census Bureau, CIA World Factbook, NOAA, NASA Earth Observatory

# FOOD SAFETY AND SANITATION OER PROJECT



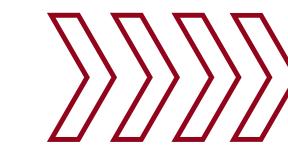
- Funded by Louisiana Board of Regents OER Grant (2024-2025 Cohort)
- Cohort of 5 faculty from Louisiana institutions
- Outcomes:
  - Food Safety and Sanitation open textbook
  - Accompanying Moodle course
- Integrated Sources: FDA, USDA, CDC, EPA

# LOCATING AND INTEGRATING FEDERAL RESOURCES



- Key Portals: GovInfo, Data.gov, Science.gov, PubMed Central, LOC, NOAA, EPA
- Strategies:
- Curate by learning objective, not just subject
- Build “micro OER” (figures, datasets, visualizations)
- Embed metadata and stable URLs
- Collaboration tip: co-develop lesson plans with faculty





# ETHICS OF OPEN: MORE THAN LEGAL COMPLIANCE

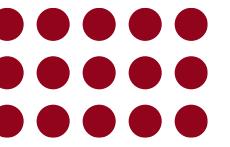


- Federal works = Public Domain ✓
- Exceptions: contractor content, state materials, embedded third-party data
- Best Practices:
- Always attribute, even when not required
- Maintain accessibility
- Include clear licensing statements

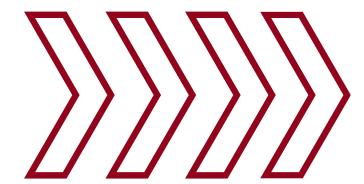
# BUILDING OER NETWORKS

- Lessons from Louisiana OER cohorts
- Library as:
  - Project manager (organizing faculty work)
  - Metadata expert (ensuring discoverability)
  - Ethics mentor (ensuring accessibility and attribution)
- Opportunities for scaling within FDLP and LOUIS networks

# LEADING THE NEXT WAVE OF OPEN EDUCATION



- **What challenges exist in connecting FDLP work to OER creation?**
- **How might libraries formalize OER partnerships with faculty?**
- **What training or resources would help government information librarians or OER Librarians take the lead?**



# QUESTIONS?



**[Jessica.Hawkes@nicholls.edu](mailto:Jessica.Hawkes@nicholls.edu)**

