Library Resources and Research Techniques for Communication 209

Learning Outcomes: By the end of your library class you will be able to locate public policies and research material (including pro-con positions) on those policies.

Research and Subject Guides

- Start with the Library’s research guides
  - Go to the Library’s home page: http://libraries.umw.edu
  - Under “Get Help” at right click on “Research Guides”
  - Click on “Communication” from the menu
- Consult the Journal Finder for online full-text holdings of periodicals
  - From the Library’s home page, click on “Find a Journal” in the “How Do I?” column at the right or click on “Journals” on the blue tabs at the top.

Websites (.gov)

Commonwealth of Virginia (http://www.virginia.gov/)
  - Website of the state of Virginia

United States Code (http://uscode.house.gov/)
  - Includes laws of the United States

United States Department of State (http://www.state.gov/)
  - Click on “Policy Issues” tab

USA.gov (https://www.usa.gov/)
  - An “online guide to government information and services”
  - Can search or go to “Popular Federal Laws and Regulations” by clicking on “Site Index” at the bottom and then “P.”

Virginia Law (http://law.lis.virginia.gov/)
  - Includes a link to the Code of Virginia (laws passed by Virginia General Assembly)

Websites (.edu)

Government Resources (http://libguides.umw.edu/govdocs)
  - Maintained by the University of Mary Washington Library
  - Includes links to both federal and state resources (.gov)

Public Policy Issues and Groups (http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/govt/pubpol.php)
  - Maintained by the Vanderbilt University Library
Websites Offering Pro and Con Views

Deatabase: A World of Great Debates (http://idebate.org/debatabase)
- A collection of more than 700 debates on current, significant issues.

Finding Dulcinea: Librarian of the Internet (http://www.findingdulcinea.com/)
- A virtual library of high-quality websites

Procon.org (http://www.procon.org/)
- A non-profit organization offering nonpartisan, pro-con research articles on more than fifty controversial issues.

Database Offering Pro and Con Views

Issues and Controversies (1995 to date)
- Since 1995, Issues and Controversies has covered the most “prominent and hotly debated issues of the day,” offering in-depth analyses, pro-con articles, and bibliographies.
  o See the “Finding Articles” section on the Library’s Communication subject guide (http://libraries.umw.edu/comm).

Books Series Offering Pro and Con Views

- Each volume in this series presents various opinions on a single issue. You can browse the numerous titles held by Simpson Library by doing a “browse search” in the online catalog under the title Opposing Viewpoints Series.
- To see if the Library owns a volume on a particular subject, click on “advanced search” in the online catalog and combine opposing viewpoints with your topic (e.g., gun control).

- The purpose of this series is to “introduce the reader to all sides of contemporary controversies in an objective and comprehensive way.”
- You can browse the many titles held by Simpson Library by doing a “browse search” in the online catalog under the title Current Controversies.
- To see if the Library owns a volume on a particular subject, click on “advanced search” in the online catalog and combine current controversies with your topic (e.g., censorship).

- Each volume in this series “examines an important social issue in a variety of ways, from personal accounts and case studies to pertinent factual and statistical articles to commentaries and overviews.” You can browse the several dozen titles held by Simpson Library by doing a “browse search” in the online catalog under the title Contemporary Issues Companion.

- Each one-volume work in this series provides a detailed overview of a current and controversial issue in the news
- You can browse the several dozen titles held by Simpson Library by doing a “browse search” in the online catalog under the title Library in a Book.

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