Podcasting Using Government Documents

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It takes a village
Concept development
October 2018

First season release
August 2019

Style decisions, and purpose statement

Boss buy-in

Partnership formation

February 2019
Begin recording

Team assembly

Transcripts

Diagram featured by http://slidemodel.com
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

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

**GPO New Titles**
From the CGP, the New Titles tab. Priceless!

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

**Twitter, Facebook, Etc.**
Follow various agencies and use their posts as a basis to start a conversation.

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

**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

...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

- Costs
- Production difficulties
- Assess success
- Media
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
Production difficulties

- Software updates that crack deadlines.
- Transcripts that don’t come back on time or are not usable.
- 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

our podcast
How I Think of Podcasting

- Have fun
- Learn stuff
- Build connections
Takeaways

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

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

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

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

Numbers Aren’t Everything
Name recognition for a librarian with their faculty is as important as the number of listeners.

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