

Please stand by for realtime captions. [Captioner is on hold, waiting for event to begin.]We are doing another sound check, we will be getting started again at five minutes, at 12 PM.

>> One last sound check we will get started in two minutes at 12 PM.

>> Good afternoon everyone my name is Joe Piskorski, and I am here with [Indiscernible], welcome to the FDL a Academy, Sing Government Data to Write a Book about Government Data . I appreciate if you can chat in the chat box that you are hearing me okay. With us today is Rob Sing Government Data to Write a Book about Government Data , Rob has been a librarian for 40 years. 430 of them he has been a depository coordinator at Washington University, and Canadian studies, environmental studies science, and the author of mystery fiction. He will be part of the webinar on theft etc. I will walk you through some housekeeping reminders. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to chat them at the bottom right-hand door, the right-hand of the screen. I will respond to Rob he will read them back and respond back to them. We are recording each section and we are recording for the link will be sent to everyone who registered for the webinar, using the email you used for today's webinar, if you use additional certificates please email [FDLP.GOP.gov](mailto:FDLP.GOP.gov). Along with all of the email and names of participants. Mouse over the blue bar so that it expands, to click on the expand, the default view at the end of the session we will be sharing it webinar satisfaction survey with you, and through the session today. The style and the value of the webinar, can use the webinar Chat Box, to report any technical issues. I will turn the virtual microphone over to Rob to take it from here. Thank you for all who have able to attend

>> I appreciate the chance to be here. That is me. I personally hate it when I'm listening to a disembodied voice, that is what I look like on a good day. The way this got started. I have the privilege of doing a presentation about my book in Virginia, this is the audience that I had a chance to talk to. Afterwards Joe asked if I would be willing to do a webinar. I would be delighted to do it. I didn't want to just repeat what I said in October. So I decided to take a different approach. What I wanted to do essentially. Give librarians something they don't usually get. Closure. We don't usually see the last page of the book so to speak. All the pictures you will see except for a couple of logos. Corporate logos are ones I took or pictures from publications. Disclosure I mean it is rare when someone comes back to say thank you with that paper you helped me with I got an a. Or I got the job. What I'm talking about today is the whole process of research involved in writing this book from the idea all the way to the book. We will mostly talk about the arrow here. The process to which the book was created the research part not so much the writing part. How did this book it started?

>> It is like this. IM as I said or Josette -- I am just as Joe said a librarian, and I send some, and spend most my time looking at publications, when I look at a book of statistics when I have enough time I will look in that book at the introduction, read the introduction, I find this is where you find the things that don't fit into the tables the problems and the mistakes that they had, the glitches that are not necessarily clear. I was looking in the 1920 population volume of occupations, and I found this fascinating piece of information. Unusual occupations for women. Basically they explained as in previous censuses the numerators record women working in occupations that would be peculiar for women. In each case the Census office examined the records to see if there was a mistake either the sex was actually wrong or the occupation wrong if they were able to figure out the mistake they correct it. They said if they couldn't figure it out they would leave it in even though they didn't think women were actually working as Millers, carpenters, for example. They explained there were fewer women in these fields in the 1920 census. Then there had been in 1910. That was because they checked the records more carefully looking for mistakes. Excuse me I will get a drink of water.

>> Looking 100 years in Hines 2020, how many pioneer women were erased from history known as fallacy, it cannot be true because I don't believe it. So let me tell you what my book is not intended to be. I will compare it to this. Book published in 1994, a compendium of national statistics of women owned businesses in the US. With the government's best guess on how many women businesses there were in that year owned by women. That is not what interested me at all. How many of this so that.

That is not what I was after. What I was after was this. This kind of thing. The next compendium on the subject reported a 15% drop in the women owned businesses. That was not actually a description of what was going on in the country at all. What it was, was a reflection that the government had changed the definition of what constituted a women owned business. So it was not a reflection of how many businesses there were but how the government was defining them. Probably not too much comfort to a woman in 2001 applying for a bank loan. Women owns businesses and they were dropping like flies here. Which they weren't. Michael was to talk about how -- My goals in the book was to talk about how these have been ignored, mislabeled or hidden.

>> My target audience was a college student wanting to write a research paper on American history or economics, gender studies. Political science. Statistics. That was who I was naming my book -- Aiming my book at. This was the contents the book contents that I sent to Kreger the company that publish my book. Put on your government information librarian hats look at this table of contents, assume that I had come into say I needed to find US federal statistics on each subject going guess far back it as I can. What kind of sources which you go to? What would be your first, second, third choices? To find information on these subjects, specifically statistical information. I'll give you a minute to look through it.

>> Okay. We will come back to the table of contents near the end of the presentation. So each chapter follows the same outline in three parts. It begins with the antidote. Attracting the readers attention to tell them something you will see the antidotes as we go on. With the earliest statistical information with what I could find going down to the most recent. Than it ends with the abstract. Why do I go to statistical abstract and tell them what they say about each subject? Statistical abstract is a collection of data about life in the United States. It is also 131 snap shops -- Shots. 131 snapshots in life, in the United States with the government explains what they consider important enough. For example. When did they first mention women in the military? When did they first talk about intimate partner violence? When did they talk about white slavery? Each of those things had an appearance for some years in the statistical abstract. That I thought was interesting fact to include about the subject.

>> Let's talk about sources. We are mainly interested in that here. The first thing I did I wanted to find out whether anyone had already done some of this work for me, I didn't want to reinvent the wheel, so I had the library by Marianne Hall's to this figure Liong Griffey on women, this was -- Bibliography a wonderful book. I went through the book writing down sources. Things I needed to write and look for. Marianna -- Maryellen Hall's, I am very grateful for this book.

>> This is the oldest in our library, I read the introduction to every sent this census that has been published. One example.

>> One example of how I went about doing this. The women's Bureau of the US Department of labor has been around for 100 years, they have been publishing on subjects on women relating in jobs. Every publication that they had traded to the extent that I could. To see if they had statistics or other information that I needed. How do I go about searching for the women's Bureau? First thing I looked in the library. I went to one search which is the online catalog. I looked up women's Bureau. And the Canadian Bureau also has women's Bureau I had to deal with that and get rid of that.

>> I found 130 publications being from the US women's Bureau. I don't know if it is true in your library, in our library most government publications from before 1976. They are not listed in our catalog. The electronic records didn't used to be available for that, we had to pick them out select of Lee. I cannot be sure 130 is all we have. -- I had to pick them out selectively pick through the ones that were useful for me.

>> This was not a complete use, so I went to the World Wide Web, I discovered the freezer which is the webpage, and the Bureau attend -- Bulletin.

>> Not a complete set but it was a great place to look to fill in the gaps, Harvard also has a collection of women's Bureau publications, their bulletins only go up to 1938. They have other provocations as well, I

was using that site as well. Not to neglect the obvious the women's Bureau itself has a website, that would be a great place to find their publications, but they do not have a big collection of historical collections there. One of the things that drive some librarians like me to having gray hair. Is the assumption everything is on the web. Which you know as well as I do it's not always true. For example. During the presidency of George W. Bush, a whole lot of publications vanished from the publications on the webpage. That is not to say no publications appeared instead. These are some of the publications that appeared in the women's Bureau website under George W. Bush. It turns out that I could not find all of them. I realized I should have mentioned way back machine for the archives which allows you to look at important pages over time. I certainly use that.

>> Of course not to neglect the RVS -- Obvious. I borrowed books. I started to count them but I lost count.

>> Moving back to the web a different part. Haughey trust. I cannot imagine writing any book without Haughey trust, anybody who is not familiar it is a free web-based library of publications, millions of publications. Those in the public domain have full text. Of course but government publications, federal publications, are homeless and domain. I emailed them and say why do you say this is not available full text, it is a government publication, usually they say yes you're right we will fix it. I would point out when they had a page blurry or upside down, they got sick of hearing from me. 95% of the time they had something that was perfect for me I think them for the excellent work they did in my acknowledgment. Here is an example of Haughey trust. I looked up the word homemaker. I wanted to see how many publications they had from the women's Bureau that talked about homemakers. 272. 200 full text. 117 have the subject women employment in the United States, that was a lot for me to go through. Let's see what of the great things about this you are able to limit why the date of publication. Just to the ones that had full view. One that I had found particularly interesting was the report on the 1948 women's Bureau conference. It was to celebrate or commemorate the Seneca Falls conference which was the first conference in the world. The American woman her changing role, woman, homemaker, an American citizen. The conference was so important. They invited the presidents -- The president of the United States Harry Truman, he thinks Miss Miller, and says -- He thinks --

>> He thinks miss Miller -- thanks Miss Miller -- The most important role they have is homemakers, which is not what the conference organizers wanted from my point of view and made an excellent antidote for my chapter on homemakers housewives, housekeepers. I was grateful to the Haughey trust for that.

>> I don't want to suggest the women's Bureau was the only agency I used. And appeared in a large way in my index. I generally stayed away from Congress, they only show up occasionally mostly interesting in the executive branch's. Not the best place for statistics.

>> I need to talk about this thing. Also found through Haughey among other places in 1907. The U.S. Congress authorized the label for the labor Bureau doing a study on working outside the home affecting the women and children. There were a lot of women and children working in factories and mills. What resulted in 19 volume report controversial in its time. Some people were not happy with what was found. On how the lives of these people were affected by their jobs. This was my favorite volume by Mary Cunningham. Her name does not appear here. I wish I could find more information. She was assigned looking into the theory to write a book, outside the factory, outside the home especially factories and department stores, led women's lives through crime. Spoiler alert, she said these do not lead women to lives of crime. This is absolutely worth reading. I didn't want to read 110 pages on Haughey trust. I was happy to find out. We actually had the entire collection of reports in our library, I was able to read the paper. Before we became a depository, it wasn't in the collection, it was actually in the main circulating collection that was another place to look for sources.

>> Going back to the web again. USA.gov is a government search engine, I wanted to give you an example here. When I look that up in USA.gov, not very useful to me the third one best statistics

unmarried childbearing okay so I decided to click on that. Takes me to the national Center for health statistics page on unmarried childbearing. For illegitimate it doesn't show up at all. I did a search in USA.gov for illegitimate children, I'm prompted to this place. The word didn't show up, that was my antidote to open up my chapter on single mothers. Vocabulary changes all the time. The history of statistics for something the vocabulary will change over time and you have to adjust for that.

>> Okay so I went to the catalog of US.gov publications, looking for women and factory. And factory workers. Some of you have been in the business to know this catalog of US publications replaced the paper the monthly catalog. Originally it only went back to 1976 which is when this started to be produced with computerized records. I'm delighted to point out. The legacy collection is being included records going back to 1942. That was good to know. I also used fed assist nothing helpful there it is more for modern stuff rather than historical executive branches. I had to find secondary publications Journal articles about government publications on statistics. A few I used a lot Epps go Desmet EPSCO --

>> I used EPSCO.

>> This is fantastic if you have an article you can use this web for signs to see who cited that article, tender watch covers articles in journals about gender. I looked up head of household census. And I found this interesting article how and why we should clear the census. Magazine journal for LGBT Q community talking about the census and for the first time we could talk about people of same-sex marriages. If you consider yourself married even though your state doesn't allow it. You should write it down that way. Which was interesting. What I found particularly interesting later in the article if you are in a biracial relationship one person is white make sure you list the minority person as the head of household otherwise the entire household will be marked as white. Particularly interesting every word in their is wrong. The census had no problem dealing with biracial households, the head of household term had not been used since 1980 in the 1970s a group of self-described that Mrs. Desmet the feminist missed the [Indiscernible] by removing the heads of household from the census. That term had not been around for 40 years. Some people still thought it was. That was the antidote and how I began my chapter on heads of households on families. I always look at prologue magazine the national archives, in 2014 just before I started working on this they had an article called when saying I do giving up your citizenship. It explains in the world of World War I, she immediately lost her citizenship and she married if he became an American citizen she got it back. There was a Congresswoman -- Congressman that thought this was unfair. He got it split. Which was great for people getting married after that point. If the woman is married before that point it meant if her husband was a naturalized citizen she still had to become a naturalized citizen herself even though she was born in the country. A piece of my book which the head of the immigration explains angry women were to go down with a bunch of foreigners to get legalized.

>> Another one that you wouldn't have thought of three examples of this, at some point you read a book or article where in the endnotes or citations footnotes, whatever you want to call it, it's that this is not published information coming from a conversation or letter from an individual. I have one of those in my book. The chapter on abortion where I point out the federal government doesn't require states to provide abortion statistics there are some states who choose not to do so. One California which has the biggest population. That is weird I thought they do not include the biggest state in terms of population of the whole country. I was not able to find any explanation I look at state publications not anything. I went and contacted someone at the state Department of Public Health in California. He was kind enough to send me an email with answers here he is in the footnote. He explained a state law forbidden them from collecting statistics on abortion. When they stopped counting it actually dropped 25%. At this point I was well into my research process racking my brain to see some source I had not covered. I suddenly remembered I had a friend I met in kindergarten. Who was a statistician for the disease control prevention. He's retired now by the way. At the time he was working there. And I said here is what I'm working on he didn't have any specific ideas to help me but he put me in touch with his friends and

colleagues, several had helpful tips I would not thought of by the ways. I was thrilled to get in touch with this person because I quoted her a number of times in the book and she was kind enough to read my book and give me a lovely quotation which wound up on the cover of the book. Then there was a third source of communication personal communications which went the opposite direction. 1850 census. Was the first census that covered statistics on health. Among these cases on insanity. I looked at that and discovered the number of men and women, white men and women were insane was about equal, the colored population slightly more females than males among the slaves 50% males listed as insane that required an explanation I discovered a woman who wrote extensively on the American slave early, she had never heard of it so I sent her copy, she suggested I talked to her mentor. His reply can you send me that I never heard of it. It was a thrill to me I expected my main contributions interns -- In terms of scholarship, I would provide context that would not be done before combining jobs and health and crime and so on. I actually found a primary source and the main people in the field were unaware so I added this to the academic conversation which was a great delight for me.

>> A couple of other tools I used which you might not have thought about Chicago manual of style. I purchased note stripper, which makes it easier to handle endnotes and move them for example to the back. It was definitely worth the small amount of money accosted me. Moving towards the final product. Obviously I didn't do research for one year, I was doing writing as I was doing research. Research is a recursive process, you come up with a question you go through the sources, you read the sources you ponder what you learned which is pondering, and revising your question, then on and on and on, you never actually research, you finish your research, you just give up. At the beginning I showed you the proposed table of context. This is not the final table of context, the final one looks like this.

>> There we have the final table of contents it changes considerably I did not know for example, in 1940 the government put out during the World War II, the government put out occupational list for women, where they needed every hand they could get, they figured out 20% of jobs could be rearranged so that women can do them. There were a lot of things I did not know when I started and have become part of the book. What do we wind up with? I consulted well over 1000 sources, 700 get cited in the endnotes, 1100 endnotes 27 chapters. 350 pages. Six months of professional sabbatical thank you Western Washington University I could not have done it without you. To work for two years of work, and it was published the end of last year June. That is how you get to the finish product.

>> I would be happy to take any questions.

>> Thank you Rob great presentation extremely interesting. Any questions for Rob? Here we go. Catherine has a question. Do scholars ever come back to you with an explanation for more women slaves being insane?

>> The first person I talked to she suggested it probably had to do with women having their babies taken away. Which is an interesting explanation I can come up with a couple myself. I didn't think her explanation was strong or detailed enough to put in the book obviously. Some things that occurred to me based on my vague knowledge of some stuff. It occurred to me I think more women slaves worked in the house, and more women slaves worked outside of the house and observed by owners. Behavior by men slaves may be treated as insubordination rather than sanity and also the possibility of the woman claimed she had been mistreated by the master. That might have been reported as insanity rather than fact, it'd be great that is just speculation on my part. It's great to see if anybody has figured that out.

>> Susan sent a question to me. How do you find a publisher.

>> The way I found a publisher. I try to find out what kind of book I was writing and figured out who was publishing that kind of book. I looked at a lot, I knew I wanted academic publisher, I did not try commercial publishers at all. I wound up with three publishers that I thought publish this sort of book I was interested in come the first ABC Clío. I will not tell you the names of the other two. I had to do completely different packets of information to each publishers, one of those publishers they actually

required me to do it in paper not electronic. Believe it or not. The first result I got my third choice publisher requiring paper they rejected it. The next was from ABC Clio, they offered me contact contract. I sent it back to them my second choice publisher offered a contract, today was as close as I will ever feel as if I was sting of in King -- Stephen King. Then the more general branch which was great from my point of view. The best advice I can give you in terms of the publisher. Picture what your book would look like who the audience would be and see who is publishing that kind of book. That is what I did. Thank you Rob. Carolyn asks the title of your book.

>> When women didn't account the chronic mismatch or and marginalization of American women in federal statistics. When I sent that to Kraeger, my suggestion was when women counted. My subtitle I forget what it was, they suggested when women didn't count. I'm not crazy about the subtitle. That is what they wanted.

>> Any other questions?

>> Peter asks other than the Chicago manual did you use any other book for your guide as a research guide for the process?

>> Yes sure. Go towards book on siding publications in the bluebook of legal citations, use both of those. Those are basically it.

>> Any other questions for Rob?

>> Thank you very much for your time.

>> We have one question. No rush. We have a shout out from Shannon. A bunch of thank yous are coming in. Whole bunch. You are welcome thank you. Feel free to contact me my email address is there I'd be happy to contact and talk to you about any of this.

>> I will go up into my wrap up comments. As I'm doing so please keep the questions coming.

>> Chris mentions excellent presentation we have this book in our collection.

>> All of you learn from him. [Laughter]

>> I will go into my wrap up comments. Thank you Rob for that terrific webinar. It was a great one. I'm sure the audience liked it as much as we like to hear it TPL, I would like to thank my colleagues Sean Tanisha for his tech support and keeping everything running smoothly thank you audience. We have five more webinars coming up in February. The next one tomorrow. Thursday, February 15, VA appeals the legacy in the new process. You will receive a notice for all upcoming webinars when announced when you sign up for our news events alert at FL DP.gov, from that webpage which is linked in the index section at the bottom of the homepage, you can view a calendar of upcoming webinars and upcoming events, past webinars from our archive and link to volunteer to present FL DP -- FDLP Academy. There is the Satisfaction Survey. If you want to learn more about the Academy great article written by my colleague Scott Pauly, we will put that in the chat box also. It goes into some good detail about FDLP Academy. Right there. Let's check and see if we have any final questions.

>> There is one.

>> Let me see. I see a comment. Patricia mentions next book question. We would like another.

>> Thank you my next book will be a mystery novel I'm retiring this year. I do not intend to spend two years writing these books I would love it if anybody else would pick up the mantle and say when Blacks didn't count. When native Americans didn't count or children didn't count. There are plenty of subjects to cover.

>> Lindy Kopecky, absolutely can we have this purchase here for our library, and thank you for writing this and for a great presentation.

>> Thank you Linda.

>> You said you see another question?

>> I was referring to Patricia.

>> Okay.

>> Any final questions for Rob here? I think you covered everything so well. It was really a terrific webinar.

>> With that I will close things out. Thank you Rob one more time thank you audience. Please come back for other webinars come back tomorrow we have a great one for you tomorrow have a great rest of your day.

>> [Event Concluded]