

## Prices and Wages by Decade: An Overview – Transcript of Audio

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Good afternoon, welcome today's webinar, Prices and Wages by Decade: An Overview, we will begin in 10 minutes.

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Good afternoon, welcome to today's webinar, Prices and Wages by Decade: An Overview, we will begin in five minutes. Good afternoon, welcome to the webinar, this is Kathy Carmichael and I will be moderator. With us today we have Marie Concannon from the University of Missouri library, she has been the librarian for 20 two years and is presently the regional coordinator for the FDLP in Missouri. Welcome, Marie, it is all yours.

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Thank you, thank you so much for inviting me to present on this today. Prices and wages by decade is truly my passion, I love working on this site, it has gotten over 5.3 million page views. Since we started it up, so it really has been an incredible success story. And I love doing it. So I'm really happy to be talking to you guys today about this topic that I like so well and I'm going to tell you about the sources, I'm going to be presenting this topic from the point of view of a librarian, figuring that you are all informational librarians in that realm, somehow, you have an interest in finding prices and wages that are historic as well. I'm going to tell you how I found the staff and how I have proceeded to organize such a large group of data. I assume you have probably seen the site, but if you have not, you can find it at [libraryguides.missouri.edu/pricesandwages](http://libraryguides.missouri.edu/pricesandwages). I want to answer one question, what was the standard of living for anybody in any period of time in American history? It's pretty ambitious, I know. I'm not sure if I have wanted to do all American history, when I first started it, I thought I would just go back as far as I could. I realized, I really did have the capacity to go all the way back to colonial times, so we added all of that in. I wanted for this website to be something that could help people who had never had an Econ class, who didn't know anything about the calculations for inflation or what a price index is or how market baskets make a difference, all of that is actually really important. But it didn't want anybody to be scared off, so what I wanted to do was to say, here is a people could earn, and here is what they had to pay if they wanted to buy something. All in the same decade. Then, they can put it together and get there their feet wet with the whole idea of consumer economics. Now complemented this site, I found it was -- I quickly found it was very important to provide breakouts for various demographics because there is no way you could tell the whole story if you present an average for a whole country. This is where a lot of the most interesting story of our history lies, and some of those breakouts. Whether it is by race or by sex or by place. The further you go back in time, the harder it is to find those demographic breakouts, we are committed to providing information that is going to help researchers, using information that is available. This is a picture -- excuse me, of sharecroppers from 1939. I wanted to give you a quick example of what this is like for people when they use our site. If they were to click on one of our links, say they are interested to know what people earned by race in 1939, they will be presented with a table from the book in a government document that had been digitized and put online in one of the digital libraries. They can look carefully and see for themselves, so when they find the line for 1939 and they see, the white males were making \$1100, the non-whites are making \$460, you go all the way down to the nonwhite females and they are making \$246, compared to the \$1100. I think people really have moments of, you know, sudden awareness. They knew things were bad, in history, but they really didn't know quite -- they didn't have the detail, they weren't able to really put it in perspective with actual numbers. Rather than simply telling them information, you show them the tables and they can see for themselves. I think it makes for a really good experience for people, using the site. Because we

have such a long period of time that we are covering, colonial times, all the way up to the 2020s. Not everybody is coming to our site for the same reason, some people, especially the ones who are coming to our site for the more recent decades, they want to know, how much more or less affordable certain things have become. Things like healthcare or education or gasoline, or even long distance phone calls. So they are looking for that kind of thing. For them, I like to put some enticing contrasts on our site for them to view and then to get an idea on how they can do this for themselves. I happen to be looking to this 1972 Spiegel Christmas catalog and I saw this picture of a an electric typewriter and I thought this is perfect. I got that picture of that typewriter and I put it together with a table that showed how much it would cost to attend college in that year, 1972. Getting a table from the Department of Education, I was able to get the information that, if you attended a public diversity, and you were in in-state person, it would cost you \$480 for that school year of 72-73. This to be the same as about three of these typewriters. I think that that is the kind of thing people find their engaging and using our site, they can come up with their own examples of finding how the prices of different things in one decade compared and how surprising we can find that these days. So I want to tell you about the basis and the structure of the website itself, we now have over 22,000 links and because it is a little guy, it is a software product that is not usually designed for very, very large sites, we have had to figure out the best way to do this. This is a screenshot of what the site looks like, this is just one decade, the 1970s. When a person comes to the site, the first thing they do is they choose a century and then they drop down to the decade that they want and when they are on the decade page, they always sees the wages in the right column and the prices in the left column. The more we have had to move to these tab boxes. What people like, so that works out well. The links that we use, we always point to freely available material, we prefer government documents whenever we can get them. If you're looking for some kind of information that the government did not collect, then we will use other primary sources that we find. Individual in digital libraries, we like HathiTrust and FRASER, the Federal Reserve think of St. Louis library. Sometimes, we have to use other digital libraries because we can't find what we want in either of those, in those instances, we will use Google books, Internet archive, chronicling America, if the only way is through a newspaper, we will use that. I don't like to use the anecdotal one price in one spot at one point in time, but sometimes, we really have to, there's nothing else that we can get. For the most recent decades, we have to link to live government websites because we don't have digitized documents for the 2010s, you know, 2020s. And then, some more wonderful websites that I found so in irresistible, the New York public libraries digitized historic restaurant menus, just supercool. I want to pause for just a second because I see some questions have come up in the chat box and I don't want to get too far ahead of people in case they want to ask something. Someone has asked for the link to the live guide, I will quickly go back, Hillcrest real fast, so you can see that. It is [libraryguides.missouri.edu/pricesandwages](http://libraryguides.missouri.edu/pricesandwages). Have we got any other questions before I move on? Get back up to where I was. All right, we are good. Some of our favorite government sources that we use for our website our bulletins from both federal and state agencies, often the department of labor, agriculture and education are especially good. We definitely use more agencies than that. For the 1800s, we rely on the serial set, since his publications are one of the 1800s and the 1900s, and of course, the statistical abstracts. It's really important for us to use page level links, even though with live guides, you are making bibliographies for people. Here is a bunch of books you would like to look at and that is a real traditional librarian way to approach assistance that you provide to a researcher. Say, here's a bunch of books, if you page through these, you will find some good stuff. When your audience is on the Internet and they are using a web browser and they are clicking, it is a whole different ball game. People don't want to have to scroll through pages and pages, they really don't have that kind of patience, I don't have that kind of patience when I am looking for something, so I know what it is like. So we can safely say, check out the BLS bulletins or, even, showing them and in an index, people would get lost trying to find a page number of something online. We knew we had to go with page level links and, coincidentally, it was back in 2012 when I started the site, that

was when I first realized that HathiTrust was offering page level links. I thought, the time is right, I want to make this website because I know I could and I think it would be really cool. Now, I want to take a moment and explain something about these page level links because I think it is important everybody gets this memo. If you look at the spot where you grab the page level link in HathiTrust, this is a little clip of their bar, you have a permanent link to this item that would have the whole volume, 10 bulletins and how they would find them altogether. Or you could think exactly to a page, we like the page level links, but noticed that it doesn't say it is permanent. It only says that that link is permanent if you're looking through the whole physical bound volume, the whole physical item. I didn't notice this years ago and I built the site on page level links, not knowing that there is a chance that they would go off a bit and they did, sometimes. When contributing libraries would make congressional corrections in a document they had uploaded, maybe, they take out a couple of duplicate pages, for example. Well, that would cause a page level link to go off by two pages, if they take off two pages, it would make something go off by the. If you have taken any of these page level links from before 2021, you have the opportunity to fix them and the way you do that is you just go in and get it again because HathiTrust has updated their technology. All of their page level links after 2021, you grab after 2021, they are now permanent. We went through our whole entire website, we found every single link to HathiTrust and we updated it. Notice that it is only going to be permanent if Google digitized the volume. The way you can tell that, if you look at the page in HathiTrust, in the lower left corner it says digitized by Google. Then, you are good. That means that you can, today, grab that page level link and it is going to be good, hopefully, for the rest of time, forever. That is really good to know and I really want to share that to you because that is important news for everybody, I think. We also love the FRASER digital library. Hold on, for one second. Just had to get a drink of water for a second. Okay, we really like the Fraser digital library, they also offer pay level links. You can get the page level link over here, it doesn't say permanent, but have never known FRASER's links to go off, so I think that that is fine too. Because we have had so much usage on this website, I just wanted to tell you a little bit about it, I'm not going to speak about this for very long, but I think that some of you are interested in this. We have gotten -- we're getting close to 900,000 views every year now, we reached our cruising altitude in 2018 and it has been covering up there every year around 900,000 or so. I had started this site, I never had it in a walk down, invisible mode, as soon as it started up, I kept the webpages open and I never advertised it and I, honestly, didn't think it was going to get any more views than any of our other libguides, the only get 25 views a month, so I was kind of surprised that this got, not only more than that, but so much more. So to compare it to our other libguides, we have a total of 45 that we run our government documents office, for one month, January 2023, this past month, we have gotten close to 80,000 pages on our libguides collectively, you can see that most of that is the prices and wages guide, but the rest of them are kind of low. All of the other ones after the government documents, they are less than 48 views for the whole month. So, you know, we hit the jackpot with this one. When we compare the usage of the prices and wages page to our whole library website, it is also interesting, what I did is I collected three years worth of data and I found that our prices and wages are getting 32% of total market share of our library website, our library homepage is just getting about half of that, 14% of its total views. Now, this does not include the catalog or the subscription databases, this is only the webpages that we have authored, including our databases gateway and all of our guides. I guess, you could actually say, government information is drawing about one third of all of the page views on our website, which I think is super cool. As a government documents librarian, I feel like I have done my duty of getting the word out that government information is really cool!

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Marie, can I interrupt for a moment?

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Sure.

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We have a question, what do you think created the large jump in usage between 2016 and 2017 and onward?

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Yes, I will tell you about that. Let me get back to it. I first started the page here, and we just put stuff up, catch as catch can, if we happened to find something, we would slap it up on one of the decades we have. We had a lot of decades that said, under construction, come visit us again soon, so it was really patchy. I had students working on it, like, work-study students, and you have to supervise them and everything, make sure you have a consistent product. The whole thing looked like a draft, I got onto the Council between 2013 and 2015, when I got off of counsel, I looked at my website and I thought, oh, my God, it is 100,000 page views, this website is not ready to be looked at yet, you know? I hadn't edited or corrected, so I rolled up my sleeves and started fixing things and trying to make it look presentable and the more I worked on it, the more those numbers went up. Right during this time period, the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis help us out too, we were sending them a lot of traffic, so they said, hey, we got some more stuff we digitized, wouldn't you like to link to it? I said, yeah, looks great, how about if I just make you a guest editor? They were happy with that, I made them a guest editor and they added a whole lot of FRASER links. That was the period of time that we really look worked on it and made it look really good. I only felt comfortable with it during the pandemic we had actual labor two of to work on our site. That is when I started advertising it, you know, in earnest, right around the pandemic. Does that answer your question? Are there any other questions? Kathy, I will rely on you to read the chat box, okay? It's a lot of words. Okay. Moving right along, what we know about our users. They are all ages, we get a lot of, what seem like middle school, based on some of the questions a few people ask in their language and everything, I think they are middle schoolers. But we also get a lot of high school, we get a lot of college, professors, we get professionals, we get museum professionals. I mean, it is, kind of remarkable that this website is, sort of, it covers so many age ranges. It's not just a kid website, it's kids and grown-ups. We knew that 85% of our traffic is referred by Google, so they are asking questions in the Google search box and Google is sending them our way. The other 15% of that is people that know about our site and come back to it, but most of these people are new. These are the questions that they type in, this is just a random sample, Google analytics will show us questions that people have typed in to the Google search box just before they click into our site. So we can, kind of, see, you know, what people are looking for and I can see how well my site probably addresses what they need. It is pretty fun. We also know that most of our users are on mobile devices and this goes up more every year, it is more than half of our site users that are on mobile devices, it is okay because our site is optimized for mobile, we put effort into doing that. Also, HathiTrust is optimized for mobile too, so it digitized page will fill that mobile screen and make it easier for people to see. That is pretty good, but it is so important to know how much we need to design for mobile, for sure. We know that 75% of our users are in the United States, the others are coming from foreign countries. Mostly, the English-speaking foreign countries, a lot of fans in the United Kingdom and we also have our site covers not just the United States, it started that way, but now it covers worldwide. I will show you that too, we do the little site tour. I would promise in the session, we would share our strategies for finding historic data. The first thing we did, we started with what we knew. I had this wonderful book on my shelf, right here in my office, the Bureau of Census catalog, 1790-1972, if you haven't seen this publication in your own library, you should go and take a look at it because it is really neat. It is almost like an annotated table of contents for everything but the senses ever produced, back to the beginning. It was through this book that I was able to see where they had prices and wages in these random, arcane series of special reports and other kinds of publications that they came out with. Also, the statistical abstract was an easy one because they've got a volume for every year, going back to the late 1800s, we were able to make a lot of headway with that. It also gave us clues about which government

agencies were especially likely to collect prices or wages in one form or another. It turns out, it wasn't just the Department of Labor, there's a lot more agencies that had a hand in that kind of thing. The Department of Agriculture turned out to be a really important agency for this because they collected data on how much farmers had to pay for their overalls. And their work boots and how much they had to pay for gasoline, for their tractors, you know? In the 1920s, I think they were just turning to mechanized farm operations, with gasoline. It got more as time went on, but anyway, the Department of Agriculture was very interested to see this condition of farmers and they wanted to know how things were going for them financially. This huge tome, I took a picture of it, covers all of the publications, the bulletins, the circulars, everything. It will tell you exactly what page of any of these publications you could find something like the price of a mule or anything, so that was pretty cool. You can find these indexes to publications for other agencies as well, this is just one example. Another thing I like to do is, in our library, we still had these old government documents, series on the open stacks, I like to look at the edges of the spines and see if there's any extra labels on them because, bless their hearts, librarians of the past made these extra labels and stuck them on volumes that they thought we would want to look at. This one, some librarian, years and years ago, put this label, list of publications, 1867-1910, issue number three. This is the U.S. Bureau of education bulletins, numbers one through four were all bound together in this volume, but issue number three had this list of publications, from 1867. I would just grab a hold of those too, that was a nice way to discover some stuff, just by looking at the shelves. You may be aware that, whenever there was a bulletin series, a lot of times, the agencies would create an index to that bulletin series and publish it as an issue in the bulletin. It would have its own numbered issue. They would just, kind of copy here and there, it's really hard to find them without the special labels. At least in my library., Docs librarians, we like to start with agencies, I don't know what it's like for you, but when somebody asks me a question, I always think, what agency would have collected that? I always think, the first thing I think is agencies. Let's do a little pop quiz, this will be fun. Let's test your knowledge of agencies and see how good you are at this. Let's say the time period is the 1950s to the 1970s, the agencies were different than they are now, a little bit. If you wanted to note prices for certain things over here, what agency would you guess you have to look at? For average college tuition, we've got the choices are Department of agriculture, energy, labor, and that includes the BLS, the Census Bureau or health, education and welfare? Well, if you guessed the health, education and wherefore, that would be an excellent gas because that is where you can find some of this stuff. Also possibly the Department of Labor. How about average monthly rent? I will let you think about this for a second. If you want to use the chat box, feel free to type it in. For average monthly rent, yes! Very good, Emily, remember that it is the census of population and housing. That senses of the housing includes rent, but so does the Department of Labor. I'm not going to swear that is not in the Department of Agriculture too, I can't say it is not there, but I can tell you I have definitely seen it in the Census Bureau and that is my favorite place for that. How about price of admission to movie theaters? If somebody had asked you that question, would you even think that the government collected it? Yes, exactly, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, they wanted to know what people were spending on everything. They do the consumer expenditure survey, they really wanted to know what people were spending every cent on. Price of gasoline? How about that one. Yeah! I love the department of energy for the price of gasoline because they give these long, long tables showing the price of gasoline for every year, going all the way back as they can possibly get it. But the Department of Agriculture also lists the price of gasoline, specifically what the primers farmers had to pay in rural areas. And the department of labor would cover the price of gasoline and they would have to come cover what they had to play in urban places. How about cost to get a crew to feeling tooth filling? Department of Health, I can understand why you guessed that, but, you know what? Who is the best? The Department of Labor. The reason why that is, if you were to look at the department of health, education and welfare, we are going to find is a lot of focus on medical science, health science, and if you do find anything to do with finances, you'll find a lot of hospital

administration stuff and some discussion of insurance. And issues with that, but when it comes to, what was the bill that the patient had to pay? You know? That, the Department of Labor. That is their Will House. In case you find this hard to believe, I wanted to show you, a table that proves it. This is the source here, the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and they will show you, the price of a tooth feeling, not overall, but in every single one of these cities. In addition, you can find the cost to have a baby, it looks like it was the cheapest in Scranton, Pennsylvania, for just \$78.50. Notice the footnote, number one, it says this excludes anesthetic and hospital care, okay, you can get the hospital cost per day of a private room and in Scranton, you could tack on an extra \$60.67 and it looks like, maybe, you can have a baby for less than \$100. Not including anesthetic. Anyway, it was kind of cheap compared to today. This is the Department of Labor, so don't underestimate them because they are great. About that movie ticket price, this is where I found that. This was, believe it or not, remember this picture just showed you a minute ago? Of these U.S. BLS bulletins? The price of the movie ticket was in these, it was in a particular bulletin called city workers family budget. There's tons of really great stuff in there, just really fun to find the things that you can find. You guys did great, I'm impressed with the chat box, so many right answers here. I think, let's increase the challenge. Let's do a round two and go back 100 years, what was your knowledge of agencies 100 years earlier? Now, we are going to be looking at 1850s to 1880s, this is going to be a little bit harder, what docs librarians can possibly know all the agencies from all the different years? It's just try it. Back in the 1880s, that was before the Department of Labor even existed and it was before there was any Department of Education and it was before there was a department of labor, commerce, what else? I mean, a lot of agencies hadn't come around yet. Try it out, suppose you wanted to find the price of land for this time period? Or would you suppose you would probably look? Yes, you guys are good. You guys are so good. The Department of Agriculture was really good about telling you the price of farmland, the Department of the Interior was great for telling the price of public lands. You know, that had not been yet settled. I'm trying to remember if the Census Bureau -- yet, the Census Bureau has that too. They had a senses of agriculture, so it is surprising. Let's go over to price of opium. The questions are getting a little bit harder. That's a good guess, to guess agriculture for opium, but opium didn't grow very easily in the United States. Yeah! State Department. If it didn't grow here, you have to figure, it didn't grow here, someplace else, it comes from the State Department. They had all those consulates in foreign countries and they were constantly asking for information from them. They would ask for prices and wages in those countries and they also talk about other things, like the price of opium that was being imported in. It is not a retail price, admittedly, but it is a price from some very early dates. Okay, finance, hey, Anna Kirby, if I could give you a gold star, I would because, you know what? The Congressional committee on finance did have a table on historic prices of opium. The Congressional committee on finance, they did this in the 1890s, okay? It is further into the future, but they went and collected historic data for it. Just FYI, before there was a department of labor, this Congressional committee on finance did a lot of the work that the department of labor would ultimately do. So it is really good to know, when you ever are working on a tough reference question from way back in history, if there was no executive agency for 80 yet, if you go and look into the legislative branch, you can find that there were legislative committees that handle that topic and I think of the Congressional committee of finance as the predecessor to the department of labor. Okay, teacher wages? Who wants to guess teacher wages? Yeah, it was the interior. I know, it's hard. To know. The reason why it was the Department of Interior is because there was a fledgling office of education that they put in the Department of Interior and they are the one to, pretty much, solely focused on education. Although, some of these other agents could have well covered it, possibly, but I know that interior is the best place for anything to do with teachers, education and wages. Emailed elastic female domestic servant wages? Who's got a guest for that one? Senses, it was. You guys are getting -- I'm going to give you a 95%, you're so good and these are hard questions! So yes, the census in the 1860s was one of the earliest occupational wage data tables, for 1860, and they showed how much female

domestic servants would earn. Finally, the price of men's heavy boots? Agriculture? Possibly. Probably not interior. I don't think. Agriculture is a possibility, the Congressional committee on finance is a possibility, I found it in the Census Bureau, isn't that something? Because that is surprising, I also want to show the what that looks like in the 10th senses, they had a whole entire report on the average retail prices, retail prices! Of the necessities of life. In the United States. So they just took that on and it was something else, you know how I found this? It was in that census reference book that I showed you earlier, the one that goes back to 1790? I found it in there and that was how I got a hold of this. Seriously, you got to go look at that Census reference book. If you have an opportunity to. Now, that we have gone through all of those quizzes and you guys did really, super well, I'm going to give you a hint and tell you that you might not really need to know all of those historical agencies in order to answer these questions, yeah, I'll let you off the hook, I made you sweat and now I'm letting you off the hook. Because now we have another tool, that works so well, if I was going to pick one tool for answering any kind of question, it would be this. And I'm going to tell you what it is, it is Google books advanced search. No, Google books advanced search. Historical to cultist in the United States is wonderful, that is definitely a source that we use to add links to our website, and gave us some great, great tables that we love. But if somebody asks a needle in a haystack question and I don't have any idea, I can't find it anywhere, I literally, truly, cannot even think of where I would start, I go to Google books advanced search. It was in here that I could put in, people would sometimes ask, how much would it cost if a woman was going to have a baby? She would need medical assistance of some kind, like, for some very early year, I was like, oh, my gosh, I'm not even sure if the federal government even collected it. Where my going to find this? I will go in here and, maybe, I'm having some brain fog that way day and I can even think of what words they might have used in 1850 for that kind of thing, a lot of times, they would use the word confinement. Anyway, if you can think of that kind of thing, you go, all right, so you type in cost to have a baby in here and then you limit your dates in Google and they have this magic of some kind of behind the scenes synonym database, where you if you put in cost to have a baby, they have every possible cinnamon or synonymous phrase and they will find what you are looking for. Even if you don't type in the word obstetrical, it will find you stuff and in months, you find the first few hits that are kind of close and give you all you need to know what language they were using in the historical times and you can search again using their language, those historical kinds of terms and words. You're even closer. Seriously, guys, if you haven't discovered Google books advanced search, you've got to try it, it is really phenomenal. Okay, now, it is time for the site tour, but before I stop sharing my screen, I just want to stop and see if anybody has the question so far because this is a good, kind of, stopping point. Just for a brief moment.

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I haven't seen any come in yet, Marie.

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Okay. Okay, I'm going to then share my screen. All right, hopefully, now, you can see my screen. Somebody give me a verbal confirmation because I no longer see the WebEx -- could somebody say yes?

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We see it.

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Okay, very good, thanks. Okay, one of the things that I promised I was going to tell you in this session is how we handle a very, very large data rich website using tran15s. Like I mentioned before, as soon as we get too many links in one box, we moved to a tabbed box. Like on the -- also, could somebody tell me if you can see my cursor moving around? I would like to know.

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Yes, we can.

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Okay, thank you. As soon as we get one into many boxes, we get tabbed boxes. That works well. Sometimes, though, when we get too much in the tabbed box, have the boxes, let me show you an example. Here is a tabbed box for the 1970s, say, if we got something that got to be too much, you click on the more button and the person sees the boxes below it. Where we have actually moved out the housing and real estate from this top box and given it a box of its own, so that we can break it out by home princes, rent, farms and land, everything else. And they can scroll down to transportation and health costs. When it gets to be even more than that, going back to the 1900s to 1909, this particular decade, we had so much information that we literally had to make every tab a box, we got food prices, it has its own box for housing and land has its own box, transportation has its own box, and so on. Notice that I've got pictures on here, these little thumbnail pictures with little captions and things, I put these in because I knew that if we had a very text heavy site, people were just going to be overwhelmed and say, oh, no, I can't, this is too much to read. I can't handle it, but if we can mark each box with some kind of iconic image that suggests the content, that is really so much better at holding their attention. LibGuides does not offer this in the regular WYSIWYG menus, I also got our I.T. guide to help me. Figure out which code I would need to do in order to put this little image in there, so it was great, once I got that code, I can just keep on using these picture boxes all over the place, all over my website and just put a different picture and a different caption on each one, so we really like that. Now, here something that we have to consider, when we got more than half of our users on mobile, we have to make the site look good to them. I want to show you what it looks like, we have done for our mobile users. I'm going to shrink the width of my screen down. Right now, you should still be seeing two columns, but when I make my -- the width of my window narrower, it goes to one column. When you are on one column, all of a sudden, with the additional links. It can help people find the prices, if we didn't have the links at the top, they would have to scroll all the way past all the wages before they even get to the prices, which starts at the top of column two, so let me try to start and move this very slowly and carefully. You see how, when it is on the desktop view, you don't see the links to the prices. As soon as you make that smaller, all of a sudden, all these prices links show up. This is a little bit of JavaScript we added in, and what that does, if a person that has a mobile device that has a certain narrowness to it, they are going to see extra stuff. Also, sometimes stuff will go away for the mobile users for me show you what that looks like. Make this a little bit smaller, okay. Now, at this point, the screen is still fairly wide and you've got all of this annotation for the links showing up. But when I make the screen narrower, all of a sudden, the annotations go away. I have learned, from our people who use cell phones a lot for looking at the Internet, they really like this. They like it when the annotations go away because it makes the whole site look a lot more user-friendly. Now, those annotations only go away if the type of item is the link type that HathiTrust authors, they also offer the rich text option. The rich text doesn't go away, no matter how small I make that screen. I have the option to have the annotations go away or not, depending on whether I want to choose LibGuides! Or rich text options. Going to make this big again and I also wanted to tell you about the earliest dates because, in our little pop quizzes, we only covered the mid-1900s to the mid-1800s and then go back to the 1700s, but I wanted to tell you about this. We have one page that I just call up 317 79 because I just thought it would be a good catch all, you know? 1779, plus some earlier data, if we could get it. Before the United States became a country, we didn't have one common currency. They were using different currencies and all of the different colonies, some are using the Spanish dollar, summer using British pounds and shillings and summer using Dutch money, I think? Because there was no comparability between all of these, I had to go with these tabs for every individual colony. Which is okay because it allows for greater specificity. And then, we got the prices in the American colonies over here too. One of the things about the time period up to 1779, naturally, we are not using federal sources. What we have to rely on, I should say, federal primary sources because such agencies weren't there yet. So we do rely, to a much greater extent, on state-level stuff. I found a lot of good material, especially Massachusetts, Massachusetts was definitely the best for collecting prices and



wages. They had so much detail that they offered, they are super. I'm going to give you an example, this is the wages were Massachusetts, over here under homebuilding -- that's actually not that, state of Massachusetts, that was something else. How about food? Let me think of a good one. Clothing. Oh, well. Anyway, trust me that I tell you Massachusetts is really good, they're my favorite. This is one other little things that LibGuides does offer us, so would help us to keep our pages from being too text heavy, they have is more option, we have hidden and nested some stuff under that little more link and I hope people find them. What else do I want to tell you? Okay okay, this is important, we make these links to pages in document governments, ideally, we would like to have the person right on the table. If they click land prices, they are going to get to this table and everything is right here. Here is the price of cultivated per acre and in their natural states, so improved and unimproved land for every year, people love this. They don't have to read anything, they don't have to look at any methodology or try to figure out stuff, the table is right there. Sometimes, the prices we want to show are not in the form of such an easy to use table and an example would be, the beer price, okay? I was able to find a book called 100 years of brewing that had the beer price back in these times. Beer is something that people click on a lot, people love to know how much the current price of beer much, they love these links. I finally found beer price in the 1600s, but the problem is, it's not a table, it's just a lot of text. I am linking to Google books your copy for a change the link to Google books, I was looking to HathiTrust's version. All a person would see would be a whole page full of text, with no real meaning meaningful headings. People would speak on something like this and say, I don't even know what I'm looking at and they would back out right away. We saw this in usability studies. What I did was, I changed the link to Google books instead and I set up that Google book link, you can make a permanent, I think, persistent link into Google books that includes yellow highlight, isn't that pretty neat? So that is what I did, I changed the link so it would have that yellow highlight and when they see that yellow height, they know it looks like it could be sold for more than two pence -- could not be sold for more than two pence per quart in 16 seven, and they can find it really quickly. Love the state documents, we are presently doing a lot to add more state-level sources. They were closer to the people, in some instances, it was easier for them to do surveys of people, to ask their wages. And they could find out prices, you know? Maybe, a little bit easier than the federal government could. The air a great source of government information, as we have been consistently going to the states and trying to add more and more in. My only regret is, once you get into the 1930s, actually, it's the Nate late 1920s, you are at the public domain late link, 1927 is the public mom domain and date, we have to wait for state-level documents to age 95 years before they become public domain, it makes you want to cry. There are a few states that do have all of their state-level publications in the public domain, California is one, thank you, California, that's great. Really, there's only a small handful and the rest of them were just, kind of, waiting until they get to be more than 95 years old. I have, in case you are interested, I have done -- put in all the effort I can to work with my own state, to try to get them to open up state-level government documents and make them public domain, the same way that federal documents are. I went through every angle I could possibly think of, including contacting the Attorney General and asking if there office would consider contacting all of the legal counsels of all the state agencies in Missouri and telling them, you know, if you guys want to make your stuff available for research, you can provide permission to HathiTrust to open up your material in this digital library. Even that did not work, I was not able to make any headway. So that is the bad news, however, there is some good news. That is that there was a court case that arrived at a decision, I'm not going to be able to say this very exactly, I'm going to shop stop showing my screen for a second, so I can see the chat box again. A court case came to the conclusion that if a state-level document was published without the little copyright symbol on it, before a certain date, like something in the 1980s, I thought it was, that that state-level document can be considered public domain. So that was really good news and I believe, if I have this right, I'm not sure, I can't speak for them, but I believe that HathiTrust is actively working with teams of librarian volunteers to manually check individual state government documents

and see if they can find that copyright symbol. As you can imagine, it is a slow and painstaking process, but we are really looking forward to have more state-level documents being available. Honestly, this is the Internet age, they were produced, you know, at a time the expectation that the public would have access, so we really want to get access to that stuff. Have I got any questions from you with the site tour? Or any questions in any other way?

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No, we don't have any new questions in chat yet, but if anybody has any questions about any part of the presentation, please go ahead and send them in and I will deliver them to Marie.

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Yeah, Brylynn, I see your comment about Google books, I use Google books advanced search, I don't know if that is different than what you are thinking about, what I like it for is, when I have the foggiest clue of where I can look for something, it always gives me leads. Because I am familiar with different agencies, I can try that avenue too, I can try looking for old print indexes in our library that covered material that is in the public domain, I like doing that too. One anecdote, at times, when I was looking for material to publicly populate the site, I thought to myself, if I could just time travel back to the year 1900 in my library, if I could just get a look to see what was on the reference shelf. I want to know what the library in 1900 used to find this stuff because they thought this question, and at that point, it was considered current information. Once I start thinking in those terms, I started thinking, what did the librarians use back then? That is when I started digging out these old print indexes that have been long ago sent to our own off-site storage because they are old and on not often use. Once I was able to dig those up, I was able to find tons of stuff, including, your final you are familiar with Adelaide Hosta? She created the -- system after she finished doing amazing things at GPO, she went on to create indexes for the state, government documents. Of economic material and they did, maybe, 12 or 15 states that they covered every single publication that these states ever issued and everything that had remotely to do with economic information, she would tell what publication it was in and what page number. Oh gosh, Adelaide Hosta, we love you. Thank you for's for leaving so much wonderful stuff behind for us. That's another way. I hope that this presentation you has fulfilled all that you hoped it would be, I'm always not 100% sure what people hope to take away. But I hope that you all got something out of it and do know that prices and wages are my passion. And I welcome reference questions, I love getting them, and you are always, always welcome to contact me if ever you want help with any of this.

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Kelly sent a link to the survey, we would appreciate your comments on today's presentation and I will be sharing the results of those comments with Marie. And I want to say, thank you so much to Marie for this presentation, I found it very fascinating. I love old historical government documents because there is just a treasure trove of information in those things pick

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Thank you, it was my pleasure.

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Okay, I will give another minute or so, see if we have any last minute questions okay, it doesn't look like we have any more questions, re-. So I'm going to close the webinar and, once again, to say thank you so much. I think we all learned a lot today.

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All right, you all have a wonderful day! [ Event concluded ] [Event Concluded]