Old School Wisdom, New School Tools for Difficult Questions

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Introduction

Goal: This FDLP Academy webinar will instruct attendees on effective ways to utilize tangible and electronic resources for answering library patrons' questions. It is suitable for people who are new to government information as well as individuals seeking a refresher.

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ARRIVE
VISIT PASS

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Getting Started

Strategize Search Path

Step 1:

- Search Parameters

- Finding Aids

- Identify Possible Stakeholders

Identify Best Bets

Step 2:

- Best Bet Databases & Resources
- Best Bet Agencies
- Identify Backups

02

Road Blocks & Detours

Why aren't you finding it?!

N

Language

Info gaps

W

E

Metadata

Technology

S

Solutions

More research
Research the research

Help Pages
Refine search using a website's help page

Cast a wider net
Check for duplicates

Phone a Friend
For advice or maybe they have it

New terms
Research alternative words from the period

Take a break
Frustration always ruins a good rabbit hole
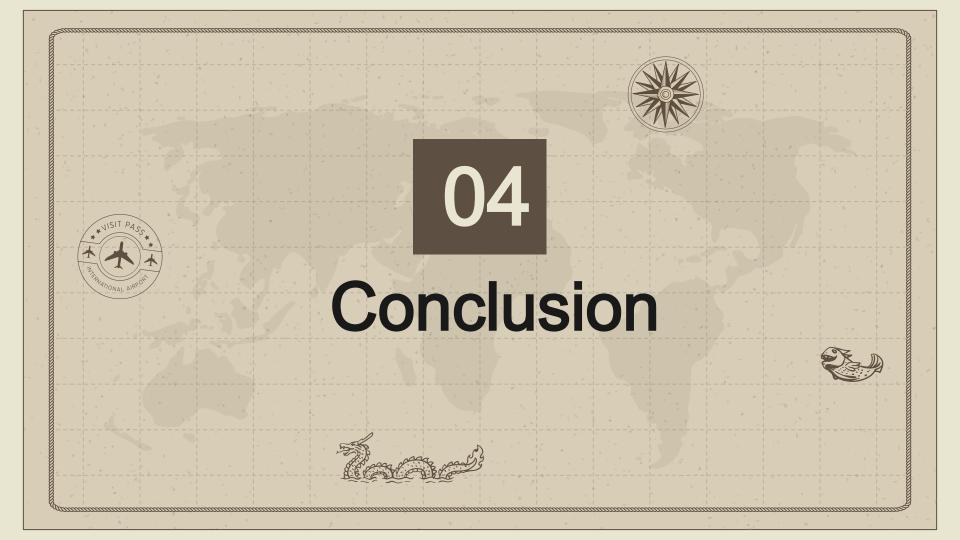
03

Demo

Vanilla Beans

Search parameters:

- Vanilla imports by country and if possible NY Price data
- 1908-Present
- Patron has consulted other people and been looking for quite some time

04

Conclusion

Key takeaways

Plan, search, review, repeat

Take a break!

Cast a Wider Net

Language Changes

Fill Information Gaps

Phone a Friend

Thanks!

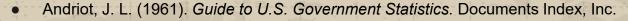**Do you have any questions?**

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Resources

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- Marchsteiner, K. E. (2021). How Are Reporting Requirements Submitted to Congress?

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  Bureau of the Census, 1943-1945.

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- United States. Superintendent of Documents. (1942). Monthly catalog of United States Government publications. Monthly Catalog of United States Government Publications. http://hdl.handle.net/10111/UIUCOCA:Serial/monthlycatalogof

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