POL 200: Analyzing Politics
Library Lab

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Statistics Are People

- **WHO** would be interested in collecting it? Examples include government agencies, interest groups, trade associations, think tanks, researchers studying the issue, polling firms, etc.

- **WHERE** would it be published? Does the creator of the data set make it free online? Is it historical, so likely to be published in print?

- **WHEN** was it published? What might have been going on in the world that would affect either how it was collected or how you might interpret it?

- **HOW** was it gathered? Knowing what populations were included, what method was used for reaching those populations, when it was gathered and so on will help you assess the value and the limitations of the data.

- **WHAT** will you use it for? Make sure when you include social statistics in your work that you represent the data accurately and fairly.
In Class Exploration

-working in groups of 2 or 3, discuss your topics for RQ4. Select one or two topics to use for this exploration.

- Using the POL 200 Course Guide, explore resources on the Stats and Polls tab.
  - Find at least three statistical sites that contain info related to the topic (even if it’s a stretch)
  - See if there’s any public opinion polling data on the topic
  - Play around with some of the data visualization tools
Government Documents

Types – hearings, congressional reports, presidential papers, maps, fact sheets, court rulings, oral argument transcripts, bills, statues, records of proceedings and debates....

Access – Depository libraries (including ours) in paper & online through the catalog, the interwebz

Explore – Using the government document tab on the POL 200 library page, explore types of sources that may relate to your topic.