

GEOG 260: Deep Research and Data Access

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Boatwright Library, Room #137



John Smith, Map of Virginia, 1612

Goals for today



- **Discuss** best practices for assessing data you could use for your final projects
- **Showcase** various sources for locating and downloading data available through the UR library
- **Show** where to get assistance from me, if/when you need it

Key Questions for Evaluating Data Sources



Similar process for how you'd assess the quality of other information sources, generally framed around the following questions:

- **What** kind of data are you looking at?
- **Who** collected/created the data?
- **When** was the data collected?
- **What** questions were asked to collect the data?
- **Why** was the data collected? What purpose does it serve?
- **How** was the data collection funded?

If you **can't** answer any of these questions definitively, you may need to dig deeper into the background of the source, or find additional info that aligns with/contradicts your original source

Geography Research Guide - Mapping Tools and Databases

[Home](#)
[Finding Articles and Journals](#)
[Finding Books](#)
[Mapping Tools & GIS Data](#)
[Country Information](#)
[Online Resources](#)
[Maps @ Boatwright](#)
[Citation Linking](#)
[Eco-Footprint Calculators](#)
[Citing Your Sources in APA Style](#)
[Zotero](#)

GEOGRAPHY

Featured Resources

- **GeoBase (on Engineering Village)**  
Search for peer-reviewed articles in geography, geology and ecology. (Elsevier)
- **Web of Science**  
Search across Biological Abstracts, Medline, Preprint Citation Index, PQ Dissertations and Theses, Web of Science Core (Science Citation Index, Social Sciences Citation Index, and Arts & Humanities Citation Index), and Zoological Record. Track, evaluate, and compare journals and articles. Tools included are the number of citations, the journal's impact factor, and other metrics. (Clarivate)
- **Environment Complete**   
Search for journal articles in the areas of agriculture, ecosystem ecology, energy, and more. (EBSCO)

Geography Liaison Librarian



Kyle Jenkins
He/Him/His

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SCHEDULE APPOINTMENT

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Examples of data access via the guide:

Sources found via secondary sources/articles

- [Example 1](#); [Example 2](#)

GIS Data Hubs

- [Statewide](#); [National](#); [International](#)*

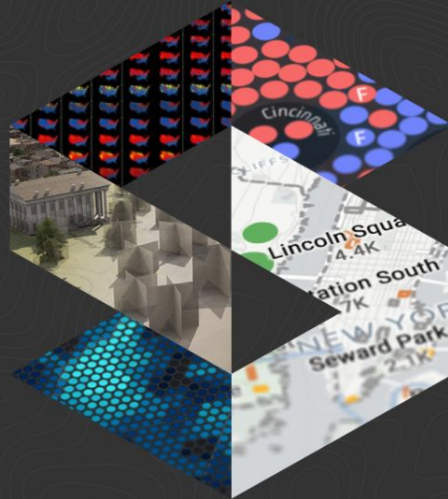
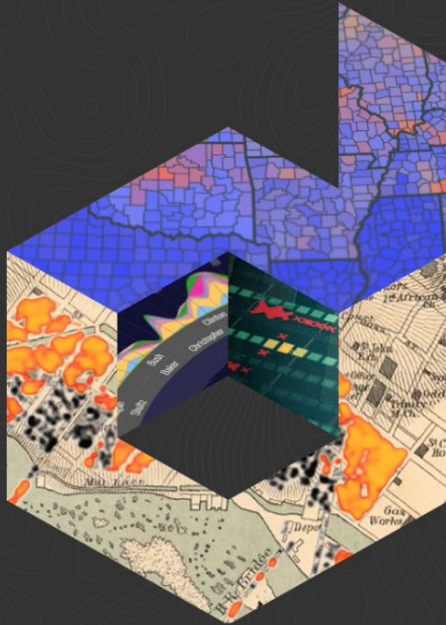
UR Subscription Databases/Tools

- [PolicyMap](#); [SimplyAnalytics](#); [CountryWatch](#); [Statista](#)

Digital Map Collections

- [Example 1](#); [Example 2](#)

UR's Digital Scholarship Lab



The Digital Scholarship Lab
creates projects that explore
American history through
mapping and data visualization.

[AMERICAN PANORAMA](#)

[PROJECTS](#)

[WHO WE ARE](#)

[CONTACT](#)

Don't forget about citing your data/sources!

DATA SETS

Lastname, F. M. or Name of Group (Year). *Title of dataset* (Version No.) [Data set]. Publisher.
DOI or URL

Grantmakers in the Arts. (2019). *Arts funding trends, United States, 1994-present* (ICPSR 37337) [Data set]. National Archive of Data on Arts & Culture.
<https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/NADAC/studies/37337>

GRAPHIC DATA (E.G. INTERACTIVE MAPS, INFOGRAPHICS, AND OTHER GRAPHIC REPRESENTATIONS OF DATA)

Give the name of the organization or individual followed by the date and the title. If there is no title, in brackets, you should provide a brief explanation of what type of data is there and in what form it appears. Include the URL and the retrieval date if there is no publication date.

HatchMed. (2017). *8 ways to improve patient satisfaction* [Infographic]. HatchMed.com.
<https://www.hatchmed.com/blog/2017/1/30/8-ways-to-improve-patient-satisfaction>

Google. (n.d.). [Google Map of Purdue University]. Retrieved January 12, 2020, from
<https://www.google.com/maps/@40.4237095,-86.9233886,17z>

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/reference_list_electronic_sources.html

Geography Department Style

The Department of Geography, Environment & Sustainability uses APA Style (7th ed.) for citations.

-  [Geography Department - APA Style Guide, 7th ed. \(last updated Aug 25, 2025\)](#)

- [Citing AI](#)

This page on the main Citing Sources Guide features guidance for citing AI-generated material.

APA Resources

- [APAstyle.apa.org Reference Examples](#)

- [APA Style Blog](#)

APA editors answer tricky citation questions



Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th Ed.) by
American Psychological Association

Call Number: BF76.7 .P83

ISBN: 9781433832161

Publication Date: 2020

Reference section, 1st floor Boatwright Library.

<https://libguides.richmond.edu/geography/apa>

APA Quirks & Common Mistakes

Sentence case

- Capitalize only the first letter at the beginning of a title:
 - Three ways to combat climate change through the courts. (CORRECT)
 - Three Ways to Combat Climate Change Through the Courts. (INCORRECT)
- Capitalize the first letter after any punctuation in a title:
 - Cities and climate change: Urban sustainability and global environmental governance (CORRECT)
 - Cities and climate change: urban sustainability and global environmental governance (INCORRECT)

Data Availability (or lack thereof)



- U.S. federal government been dealing with cuts to federal programs and institutions
 - Ex. NOAA, CDC, Department of Education
- Data originally housed on certain federal websites no longer available
 - No certainty yet as to if they'll return
- Future of available data from federal programs in jeopardy
 - Directly impacts the work of thousands of researchers and professionals across the country (and arguably globe)
 - Data preservation efforts currently underway by interested groups/organizations

Examples of Digital Federal Data Repositories



- PolicyMap
 - Maintaining access to federal data (Census, federal programs, etc.)
- Esri
 - Available Census/ACS data through ArcGIS Online
- [Public Environmental Data Project](#)
 - A coalition committed to preserving and providing public access to federal environmental data.
- [End of Term Crawl](#)
 - Archived copies of presidential website material from 2008 onward
- [Data Rescue Project](#)
 - Grassroots effort to save and archive government data
- [Even some familiar faces...](#)

Main point: Where to go for help



1. [Geography Research Guide](#)
 - a. Double-check for alternate databases, additional resources, citation assistance, etc.
2. [Library Tutorials](#)
 - a. Videos produced by UR librarians on foundational research skills
3. Come and see us!
 - a. Offices in Boatwright Library
 - b. [Schedule a reference appointment](#) online