Collaboration With Faculty & Library Special Collections: Increasing Student Engagement With Primary Sources

Paul Campbell & Miriam Intrator

Project Overview

• Integrate library special collections into upper level Political Science course on colonialism.
• Triangular collaboration.
• Active learning within multiple library sessions.

Learning Objectives

• Learners will differentiate between and contextualize source types.
• Learners will incorporate special collections into their research.
• Learners will provide examples of each source type.
• Learners will follow topic thread from tertiary to primary.
• Learners will incorporate special collections into their research.

Assessment

• Pre- and post-test using Likert Scale & multiple choice.
• Librarians graded bibliographies.
• Students understood concept of primary source but still weren’t sure about scholarly and popular sources.

Hands-On With Primary Sources

Look See Think Wonder

• Look at, handle, interact with (carefully!) everything in the room.
• Select one item/set of items.
  o What do you see?
  o What do you think about what you see?
  o What else would you like to know about it?
• Group discussion!

Internal & External Outreach

• Partnership between librarians.
• Deeper partnership with faculty.
  • Faculty teaching award.
  • Librarians are able to use this example for promotion of library services.

Next Steps...

• Conduct on-going assessment of student learning and of project collaboration.
• Increase number of library sessions.
• Publish in political science education journal.
• Expand similar collaboration to psychology department using asylum intake papers from 1874.