



VoxGov in the library: reference and indirect instruction

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April 30, 2020



UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
VIRGINIA TECH.



Reference: Fitness to purpose

- Get behind the (fake?) news
 - Fact checking, opposition research, “administrative state” arcana
- Old-fashioned Docs-trails research
 - Uniqueness of social media content
 - Multidimensional cues to next steps
 - Leverage local, complementary resources
- It’s not my first choice for doing formal, black-letter legislative history (Congress.gov).
 - But its political information complements it

Instruction by indirection

- VoxGov is powerful enough to be intimidating to cover in a conventional library one-shot instruction session. (Cf. other rich resources with non-academic heft like Factiva.)
- “Sell” it to faculty subject-matter experts as a research and teaching resource to integrate incrementally and purposively.
 - Matthew Dull: winter term course in congressional oversight
 - And chair of Rosa Crewson’s PhD committee