Transcript for “Sparks Grant” video tutorial about how to find government agencies

This video is 3:58 minutes long

[On the screen: “Home” page of the ENGL& 102 Sopang Men libguide]

Hi, I’m Jennifer Snoek-Brown, one of your TCC librarians, and here’s another video for Sopang Men’s Sparks Grant research project. In this video, we’ll look at how to find statistics to help identify community problems or issues. So I’m going to click on the “Searching for statistics” tab on your ENGL 102 library guide.

[On the screen: “Searching for statistics” page of ENGL 102 Sopang Men libguide]

In the “Starting points for finding” content box on this page, the first sub-tab is for “Government statistics.” Government statistics are often a good place to start searching for statistics, because when you think about whose job it is to collect statistics, it often comes down government agencies or departments.

I have some headings and links here for “Local, regional, and state government info and statistics.” I want to highlight the first link here, for American FactFinder, because it’s an easier way to get into Census data. And when you talk about U.S. statistics, you often hear that word, “Census.” The U.S. Census occurs every 10 years, as a way to “count” everybody in the U.S. And this is an important point, that not all statistics are that current. It takes TIME to collect data, analyze that data, put that data into reports, and then publish that data for the public.

Also keep in mind there may not be a perfect statistic for exactly what you need, so you need to find what’s out there first and then see where the gaps are. And speaking of gaps, some populations may not be visible in some statistics. For example, if you were researching the issue of teenage homelessness in Tacoma and wanted to find statistics, homeless persons are not counted in the Census. So how can we get statistics about a population that may seem invisible?

[On the screen: “Google search tips for statistics” sub-tab on the “Searching for statistics” page of the ENGL 102 libguide]

So that’s why I’m going to click over into the “Google search tips for statistics” sub-tab, and I have some screenshots here. The main point here is that I’ve added the word “statistics” to my Google search. I have inserted a Google search box at the bottom of this sub-tab, so I’m going to search for and type in “homeless persons statistics.” This open up a new tab.

[On the screen: Google search screen]

I’m going to scroll down the results here. I see that there’s a .org – that’s an organization – the National Alliance to End Homelessness. I might go back to that. I’m going to skip this one.
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