The Legislative Process – This is the process by which a bill becomes a law

1. Introduction – A Senator or Representative introduces a piece of legislation
2. Committee – A committee or subcommittee investigates, hears testimony, etc
3. Vote – If the committee sends the bill to the House or Senate, it goes on the Calendar and is voted on.
4. Referral – Once a bill has passed, it is sent to the other House of Congress where it goes through the same process.
5. Conference Committee – This committee is made up by members of both Houses of Congress. It is their job to reconcile any differences between the House version and the Senate version of the bill.
6. Final approval – After any differences are reconciled, the “enrolled” bill is signed by the Vice President and the Speaker of the House.
7. Presidential Consideration – The President has 10 days to either sign the bill into law or veto it.
8. Overriding a Veto – If the President vetos a bill, it can still become law by two-thirds majority vote of both the House and the Senate

Find out more – http://bensguide.gpo.gov/9-12/lawmaking/index.html

Important Online Resources – Federal Government Information

- **U.S. Code** – The Law of the Land as it is today (Area B of Watson Library Reference Room or http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/)
- **Statutes at Large** – Bills as they are signed into law (Area B of Watson Library Reference Room or http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/. Please note that the online version only goes back to the 104th Congress – 1995 – 1996.)
- **Federal Register** – Official daily publication for rules, proposed rules, and notices of Federal agencies and organizations, as well as executive orders and other presidential documents. (Government Documents Reading Room of Watson Library or http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/)
- **Congressional Record** - the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress. It is published daily when Congress is in session. (Government Documents Reading Room or http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/ - online version back to 1994.)
- Other important Congressional documents, hearings, and reports can also be found at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/
Important Online Resources – State Information

- Louisiana Legislature - http://www.legis.state.la.us/
- Louisiana Revised Statutes – Area B of Watson Library
- State Library of Louisiana – http://www.state.lib.la.us/
  - State Library Catalog - http://ipac.state.lib.la.us/

Searching for Government Information

- Federal Digital System (FDS) - http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/
- GPO Browse Topics - http://www.browsetopics.gov/
- Louisiana State Library Catalog - http://ipac.state.lib.la.us/ipac20/ipac.jsp?profile=sll#focus
- Thomas – http://thomas.loc.gov

Also of Interest

Library Electronic Resources – all electronic resources may be accessed in the library by clicking on the "Library Homepage" icon or from outside the library using the attached instructions. http://library.nsula.edu

**NSU Libraries Catalog** – Use the search box on the left side of the library web page to search for books, archives, manuscripts, government documents, DVD's, CD's, etc owned by NSU libraries. Use the My Account feature to renew books online.

Undergraduate students may check out up to 20 books for a loan period of 21 days. Books may be renewed one time online if they are not overdue. Remember – overdue fines are $1.00 per item per day!

**Academic Search Complete** – scholarly periodical articles on a wide variety of academic topics. Approximately 75% full-text.
- Look here for articles etc published in scholarly and professional journals.
- Can limit to Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals
- Advanced features allow you to set up search alerts, journal alerts, and share search results with other users.

**Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe** – Use the Legal Research collection to find
- Federal and State Case Law
- Federal and State Regulations
- Legal News and Reviews

**Social Work Abstracts** - The Social Work Abstracts database, produced by the National Association of Social Workers, Inc., contains more than 45,000 records, spanning 1977 to the present, from social work and other related journals on topics such as homelessness, AIDS, child and family welfare, aging, substance abuse, legislation, community organization, and more.
- Basic or Advanced searching
- No full-text!!!!!
- Limit by document type and/or publication year

**SocINDEX with Full Text** - *SocINDEX with Full Text* is the world's most comprehensive and highest quality sociology research database. The database features more than 1,660,000 records with subject headings from a 19,300 term sociological thesaurus designed by subject experts and expert lexicographers. *SocINDEX with Full Text* contains full text for 344 "core" coverage journals dating back to 1895, and 129 "priority" coverage journals. This database also includes full text for more than 700 books and monographs, and full text for 6,800 conference papers.
- Basic or Advanced searching
- Browse by publication title
- Use Subject Terms as a Thesaurus to find new and better search terms
**Other Related Databases** – You can use any of these depending on the focus of your research and your topic. They index journals in various social sciences related fields, and in many cases include full text articles.

- CQ Researcher
- ERIC (Educational Resource Information Center)
- Mental Measurements Yearbook
- Newspaper Source
- PsycInfo

**NSU Journals List** Information on Print and Electronic Journals – Journals available in electronic format indicate the database and years covered. Journals held by NSU libraries and not available in electronic format provide a link to the online catalog. Clicking this link will display format (paper or microfilm) and years available. Searchable by title or subject

**Interlibrary Loan** – Use this to order research materials you need that aren’t owned by NSU Libraries. We can get whatever you need quickly, and for free. All it takes is a little advance planning! Call 318 357-5465 if you have questions about ILL.

**Research consultations** – All students are invited to sign up for a research consultation with a reference librarian. We recommend this particularly for students working on major research projects. Call or come by the reference desk for more information.

**Library Semester Hours**

- Monday – Thursday 8:00am to 10:00pm
- Friday 8:00am to Noon
- Saturday Closed
- Sunday 2:00pm to 10:00pm

Gail Kwak  
Reference/Government Information Coordinator  
108G Watson Library  
Northwestern State University  
Natchitoches LA 71497

kwak@nsula.edu

318 357-4574

http://people.nsula.edu/kwak - I put copies of all handouts here

http://www.facebook.com/nsulawatsonlibrary

http://www.twitter.com/NSULAWatson - You can tweet reference questions to us using @NSULAWatson or #NSULAWatson