

# Guidelines for curators of library exhibits in Sawyer and Schow

(does not include Special Collections)

## Purpose of library displays

Library displays are intended to complement and augment the curricular and research activities of the college by

- highlighting the scholarly endeavors and productions of members of the Williams community
- encouraging academic engagement with the library resources
- offering opportunities to amplify the voices of minoritized voices in our community

## Benefits of organizing a library display:

A display is a form of research: identifying a topic, articulating a question, selecting resources to answer that question. Instead of writing, one gets to express themselves visually. Library displays are a great way of

- discovering and interacting with library resources
- learning about how to identify, find and select resources in support of a theme
- developing visual presentation skills and learning how to convey a story visually

## Interested in creating a display? Here are some things to consider:

- When working on a display you will:
  - Be paired with a librarian in Research Services
  - Select a topic in consultation with the librarian
  - Articulate the question that will underlie the display
  - Select resources to be included
  - Develop the narrative of the exhibit
  - Write a curatorial statement that contextualizes your project
  - Organize and install the display (including creating labels and signs)
- Effective displays are those that
  - Have a clear narrative (tell a story)
  - Either raise or answer a question
  - Encourage viewers to interact with the content
  - Relate to something happening on campus or in the news
  - Are co-organized (with other departments, groups, students)
  - Include a variety of resources (print, electronic) and are visually interesting
- When creating visual materials, always keep in mind the college's framework:
  - [Graphic Standards for Williams College](#) (typography and the Williams visual brand)
  - Williams-specific typefaces are not available in GSuite. But the recommended fonts Hepta Slab, Volkhov, and Poppins are available by searching in the "more fonts" option.