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**Labor and Legality Library Research Methods**

My paper, “Labor and Legality: Unions as Ideological State Apparatuses within Bourgeois Law” required extensive research in Fondren Library and the use of resources ranging from Zotero to journal searches, and from checking out books and dissertations to searching contemporary news sources. The breadth of the topic that I wanted to research and write about necessitated a far more detailed search for information on topics that had not previously been analyzed in depth. Although anthropological articles gave crucial accounts about labor unions and undocumented labor separately, none sought the interrelationship between the two topics. However, I saw a crucial tie between the forces that constitute labor, productivity, and unions, and that constitute illegality, race, and discrimination. Fondren Library provided me with the materials that I needed to make these essential connections and further my argument to include theories from authors such as Althusser, Marx, and Balbus.

“Labor and Legality” was written for the class “Law, Power, and Culture” with Professor Ballestero. Her final project required students to choose a topic that reflected law in culture or society through an anthropological lens, using theorists that were discussed in class. In my experience volunteering for the union group, UNITE HERE, I realized that much of what the union did dealt with legality. When I had this realization, I spent much of the afternoon in
Fondren, researching articles from news sources, such as the New York Times, on unions and their inclusion of undocumented individuals.

Upon seeing an article on the history of unions and immigrant groups, and the antagonism between them by the New York Times editorial team, I went to the Fondren Library database and searched for anthropological articles that reflected the relationship between labor unions and their inclusion of unauthorized workers. I discovered that not much work had been done on this particular topic. For the rest of the month, I searched for articles that served as the theoretical foundation to my paper through journals such as the *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, and *Law and Society Review*. Althusser’s “Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses”, and Balbus’s “Commodity Form and Legal Form: An Essay on the “Relative Autonomy” of the Law” helped me form my central arguments about unions as ideological state apparatuses.

As I collected these articles, I also searched the Fondren database for books. Collier, Durrenberger, Gomberg-Munoz, and Schryer’s works offered the bulk of my information on nationwide trends regarding unauthorized workers’ hardship and the union’s role in assisting laborers in society. Although I did not use Durrenberger’s work in my paper, his book offered a broad examination in the anthropological approach to unions. Gomberg-Munoz, Collier, and Schryer’s analysis of undocumented persons gave me material for my argument about legal subjectivities. Lastly, I documented all of these books and articles in the program, Zotero with Fondren’s help.
Fondren Library offered me sequential assistance throughout my research and I learned to use the Library’s research methods to fill gaps of knowledge in previous research in a sequential process.

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