

Increasing Awareness of Government Information among Undergraduate Students



**APRIL
2010**

Presented by



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The Problem

- Government Information usage in our library has typically been low among undergraduate students. Why?
- How do we get students to understand the value of using Government Information resources?



Misconceptions

- Only for Political Science
- Forms
- Not scholarly
- Not easily accessible
- Only includes raw data
- Not searchable



Intimidation

- SuDocs
- Often not in prime locations
- Space seems off limits
- The appearance of documents
- Not intended for public use

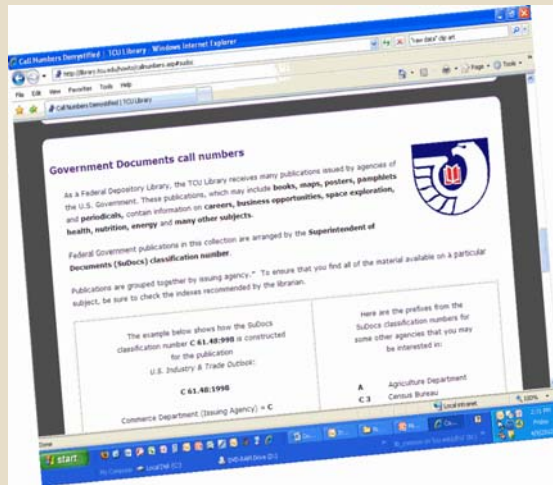


Solutions We Have Tried

- Tutorials
- Tours/new student orientations
- Involving Subject Specialists

Tutorials

- Description
- How to use
- Primary resources

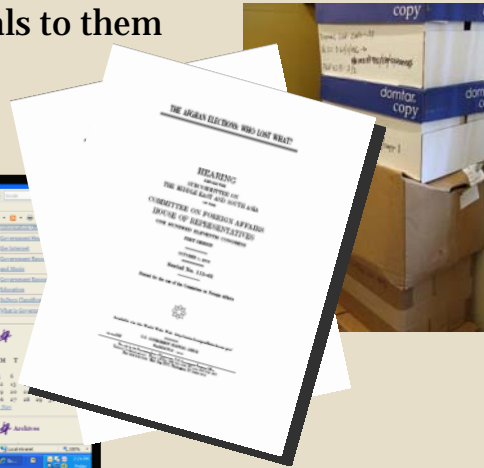


Tours/ Orientations

- Description of collection in tours
- Basics included in new student Academic Orientation materials
- Not just “here is where the documents stacks are”

Involving Subject Specialists

- Route relevant materials to them
- Weeding
- Blogging



Increased Usage

- Questions at the Government Information Reference desk doubled between March 2009 and March 2010.
- Circulation statistics indicate an increase in documents usage*
- Interlibrary loan requests for documents have also increased

*Because the number of documents being published online is always increasing, we cannot get firm usage numbers from circulation reports alone.

Including Government Information in Library Orientation Sessions

- Would allow students to learn about Government Information as they develop their information literacy skills



Official Program

- Created a Government Information literacy module to be used in orientation sessions
- Not too much information- just the basics

What We Teach

- What Government Information is
- How to find it in the catalog
- How to find uncataloged documents
- What to do if TCU does not have a particular document



Goal

To introduce documents as a collection comparable to any other in the library



Implementation



- The TCU English Department decided to perform many services, including library orientation, in-house with no outside assistance.
- We had to determine what orientation efforts were going to happen, and how this module would be included.
 - Open orientation classes planned for Fall semester
 - More instruction in Academic Orientation packets
 - Searchpath tutorial

Government Information Module



TCU Library Home Page



What We Expect to Happen

- The use of the collection will continue to increase
- We will be better able to address the needs of students
- Students will continue to use Government Information sources throughout their academic careers
- Subject specialists will request similar modules for use in library instruction sessions

Response

- Positive so far
- Students are pleased to have another type of resource
- Faculty like that the students are using Government Information sources
- Library administration likes the usage statistics
- Several subject librarians have already become interested in including similar modules in their library instruction sessions

How to reach us



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