

Teaching Government Information in the 21st century: Transdisciplinarity as a pedagogical model

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Need and numbers

- H.R. 2551, Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2012.
- According to a 2009 Pew survey 40% of adult internet users have gone online for raw data about government spending and activities
 - Examples include:
 - 23% of internet users look online to see how federal stimulus money is being spent ;
 - 22% have read or downloaded the text of legislation;
 - 16% have visited a site such as data.gov;
 - 14% have looked online to see who is contributing to the campaigns of their elected officials

(Smith, A. (2010). *Government information online*. Pew Research Center. Accessed at: <http://pewinternet.org/Reports/2010/Government-Online.aspx>)

- “Seventeen thousand people, for example, paid to receive the Congressional Record in 1995, a number that was quickly shrinking by 2002 and now stands at less than 2,000. A quarter of a million pages are retrieved from it online in a month.”

(Golbfarb, Z. (2006). *Confronting digital age head on*. The Washington Post. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/03/12/AR2006031200938.html>)



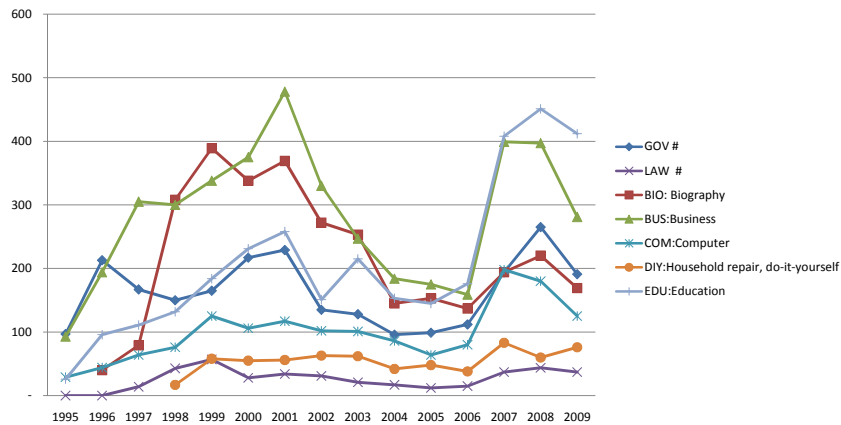
The Internet Public Library

IPL2

- “IPL2 is a public service organization and a learning/teaching environment”
- “students and volunteer library and information science professionals answer reference questions for the “Ask an ipl2 Librarian” service and assist in designing, building, creating and maintaining the ipl2's collections”
(<http://www.ipl.org/>)
- How can IPL2 be leveraged to understand the breath of government information related questions and as a means to highlight government resources?

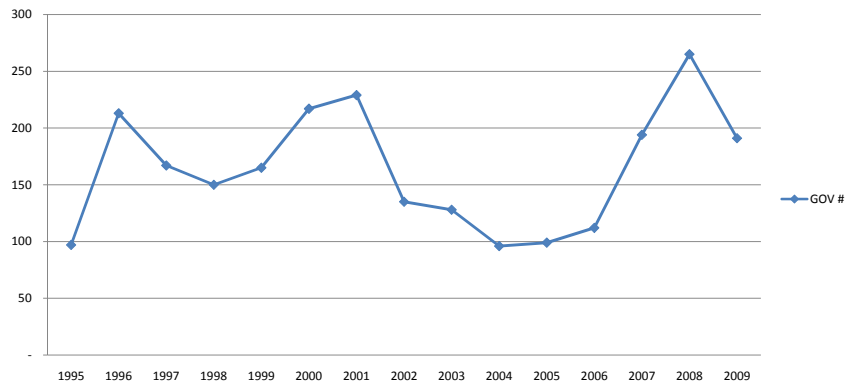


Questions addressed to IPL2



Government Information identified questions

GOV #



Government information across subjects

- Process
 - Analysis of questions across a sample of time periods to identify government information related queries
 - Analysis of the answers given to government information related questions
 - What types of resources are mentioned?
- How can the IPL2 education model be used to:
 - Train future government information specialists
 - Highlight government resources



Generations Online 2010: Summary of Findings

The following chart shows the popularity of internet activities among internet users in each generation.

Survey dates vary—for details, see the **Methodology** section at the end of the report.

90-100%	40-49%
80-89%	30-39%
70-79%	20-29%
60-69%	10-19%
50-59%	0-9%

Key: % of internet users in each generation who engage in this online activity



	Millennials Ages 18-33	Gen X Ages 34-45	Younger Boomers Ages 46-55	Older Boomers Ages 56-64	Silent Generation Ages 65-73	G.I. Generation Age 74+
Email	Email	Email	Email	Email	Email	Email
Search	Search	Search	Search	Search	Search	Search
Health info	Health info	Health info	Health info	Health info	Health info	Health info
Social network sites	Get news	Get news	Get news	Get news	Get news	Buy a product
Watch video	Govt website	Govt website	Govt website	Govt website	Travel reservations	Get news
Get news	Travel reservations	Travel reservations	Buy a product	Buy a product	Buy a product	Travel reservations
Buy a product	Watch video	Buy a product	Travel reservations	Govt website	Govt website	Govt website
IM	Buy a product	Watch video	Bank online	Bank online	Watch video	Bank online
Listen to music	Social network sites	Bank online	Watch video	Watch video	Financial info	Financial info
Travel reservations	Bank online	Social network sites	Social network sites	Bank online	Bank online	Religious info
Online classifieds	Online classifieds	Online classifieds	Online classifieds	Rate things	Rate things	Watch video
Bank online	Listen to music	Listen to music	Financial info	Social network sites	Social network sites	Play games
Govt website	IM	Financial info	Rate things	Online classifieds	Online classifieds	Online classifieds
Play games	Play games	IM	Listen to music	IM	IM	Social network sites



Transdisciplinarity and Government Information

- Is transdisciplinary
- Transdisciplinarity as a pedagogical model provides LIS students with the opportunity, in the classroom, to work with others outside LIS and beyond the silo of the Government Information course
- Resulting in rich experiences that may translate into professional collaboration opportunities and broader recognition of the widespread use of government information
- With the goal of integrating government information to other courses, across campuses, by leveraging evidence of its applicability and importance (via IPL2 analyses and potentially others)



Discussion?
Thank you!

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