Teaching & Promoting U.S. Govt. Information via LibGuides and Blackboard

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LibGuides

- User friendly subject and class/course guides
- Customized templates
- Easy to categorize and group information resources
- Integrate video slips, RSS Feeds, audio clips, etc.
- Easy to insert images
- Feedback column
- Interactive guides
- Useful to display hidden historic treasures from our collections – Special Collections from Govt. Docs.?

Blackboard

- Govt. Information available on "fingertips"
- Readily accessible via Blackboard
- Customized course content
- Easy to provide access to subject guide (LibGuide) by creating a link
- Easy to insert images and video clips
- Increases visibility of government documents collections and documents librarians online
- Useful for creating surveys and receiving feedback

Examples from the University of Miami

- Federal government information – http://libguides.miami.edu/federalgovernmentinformation

- State government information – http://libguides.miami.edu/floridastatedocuments

Some Relevant Disciplines/Topics of Interest

- History
- Political Science
- International Studies
- Communication
- Public Health & Diseases
- US Policy in the Middle East
- US-Latin America Relations
- Declassified Documents
- Drug-Trafficking

Statistics and Tracking

- Easy to track usage both in LibGuides and Blackboard
- Apart from obtaining general statistics from the instruction database, these provide another option to track usage information by specific resources/websites/databases
- Number of hits per page/database/website
- Useful in writing semester end or yearly reports

Results

- Positive feedback from faculty, students, and general public
- Interactive content that "lures" library patrons
- Increases the visibility of government documents and librarians online
- Patrons like the guides as they are easy to navigate and use
- "Renewed" interest in documents collections
- Awareness of the value of government information