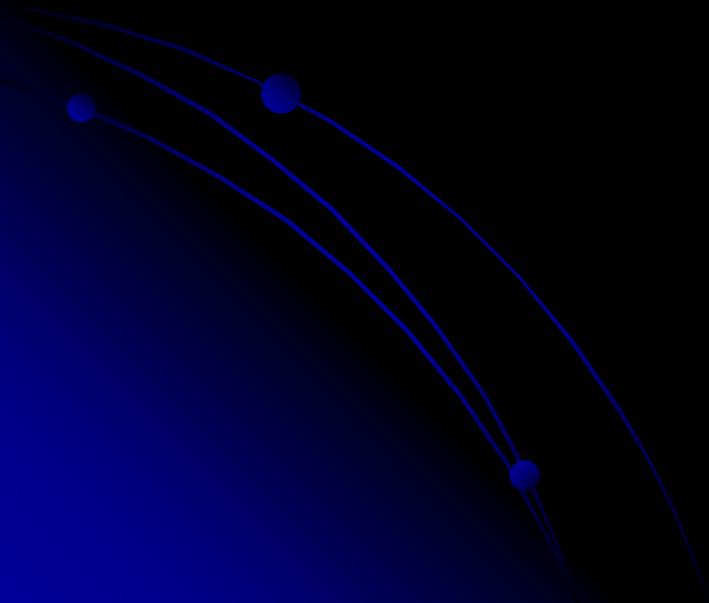
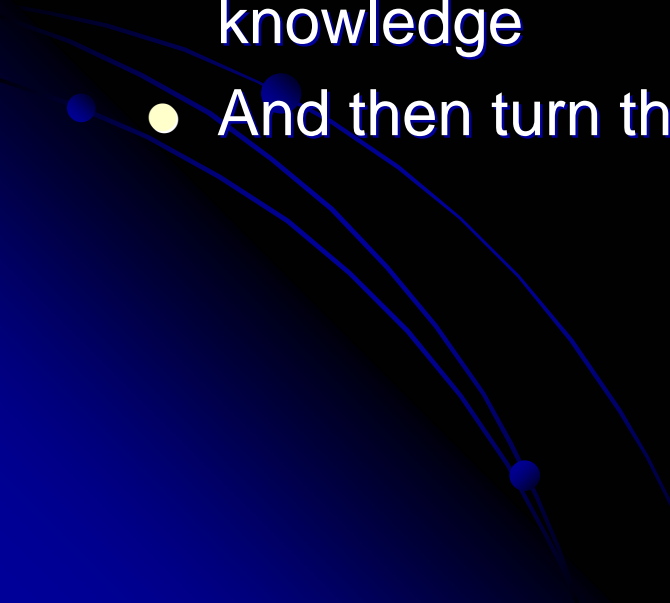


Using IT & Team Teaching to Promote Government Information

UIC's Use of Blackboard for Public
Policy Analysis



- Allows students to study detailed process in-depth
 - Allows Librarian to concentrate on introducing complex issues
 - Enhances communication
 - Provides integrated learning between librarian and students
 - Helps students learn to transform information to knowledge
 - And then turn this knowledge into empowerment
- 

Overview of Legislative Process

The screenshot shows a course management system interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs for "My UIC", "Courses", and "Content System". To the right of these tabs are icons for "Home", "Help", and "Logout". Below the navigation tabs is a breadcrumb trail: "LIB500 - LEGISLATIVE PROCESS > COURSE INFORMATION". To the right of the breadcrumb trail is a link labeled "EDIT VIEW".

On the left side of the interface is a vertical sidebar with a list of course-related items, each in a purple button:

- Course Information
- Course Documents
- Announcements
- Assignments
- External Links
- Books
- Communication
- Staff Information
- Virtual Classroom
- Discussion Board
- Groups
- Tools
- Support Site

Below the sidebar is a "Tools" section with three items:

- Communication
- Course Tools
- Course Map

The main content area is titled "Course Information" and features a sub-section titled "Introduction to Legislation". This section includes a small icon of a book and a paragraph of text:

Introduction to Legislation
This unit will explain the legislative process in general. It is intended to supplement what you are learning in your classes for both federal and state legislation.

The United States has three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial. Laws may evolve from the action of each branch. A legislative history generally traces a bill from its introduction in Congress through the legislative process to signature by the President. Research on the history of a law may also include tracing administrative law (executive branch) and case law (judicial branch).

Legislative tracing is the first step in determining legislative intent. Many professions (education, law, public administration, social work, history, business management, non-profit administration, and grant-writing to name a few) require a knowledge of this process.

Legislative Tracing

My UIC Courses Content System Home Help Logout

LIB500 - LEGISLATIVE PROCESS > COURSE DOCUMENTS EDIT VIEW

Course Documents

Legislative Tracking (Congress)

How Federal Laws Are Made

The Constitution of the United States and its amendments form the basis of our legal rights and privileges. Only laws that fall within the framework of the Constitution and the legal precedents regarding the Constitution's intent can remain in effect.

The text of the Constitution is available on the behind the Reference Desk on the 2nd Floor in print; and available at the THOMAS web site at:

<http://thomas.loc.gov>

The "Constitution of the United States of America: Analysis and Interpretation" is an annotated version updated by supplements which include the latest interpretations. It is available as Senate document 103-6, Serial Set 14152 on the third floor of Daley Library in Documents. It is also available in searchable text at:

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/constitution/>

Article I, Section 1, of the United States Constitution, states:

"All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Both the Senate and the House of Representatives have equal legislative

Links for Additional Access

The screenshot shows a course management system interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs for "My UTC", "Courses", and "Content System". On the right, there are icons for "Home", "Help", and "Logout". A left sidebar contains a vertical menu of course-related options: "Course Information", "Course Documents", "Announcements", "Assignments", "External Links", "Books", "Communication", "Staff Information", "Virtual Classroom", "Discussion Board", "Groups", "Tools", and "Support Site". Below this menu is a "Tools" section with icons and text for "Communication", "Course Tools", and "Course Map". The main content area is titled "LIB500 - LEGISLATIVE PROCESS > EXTERNAL LINKS" and includes an "EDIT MENU" link. The "External Links" section lists several resources, each with a globe icon and a brief description:

- THOMAS**: Basic legislative resource providing free access to brief legislative process of bills and public laws. Goes back to the 101st Congress for most areas although irregularly.
- GPO Access**: The official web site for the Legislative Branch. Links to over 100 different federal databases including access to the U.S. Code, Federal Register, Code of Federal Regulations, and Bills/Public Laws.
- Congressional Biographical Directory**: Search engine for Congressional biographies 1774-present. You can search by First Name, Last Name, Year, Congress, Party Affiliation, State, or Position.
- Ben's Guide to U.S. Government for Kids**: Introduction to U.S. Government. A good place to start research especially if you need a refresher on how laws are made.
- United States Senate**: Official web site for the U.S. Senate. You can contact your Senator, find out committee information, and conduct business with the Senate via this site.
- United States House of Representatives**: Official web site for the House of Representatives. From this site you may contact your Representatives, search legislation, and do business with the House.

Further Reading

My UIC Courses Content System Home Help Logout

LIB500 - LEGISLATIVE PROCESS > BOOKS EDIT VIEW

Books

Bibliography

CIS index to publications of the United States Congress. Published in Washington, DC by the Congressional Information Service beginning in 1970 and continues to the present. Initially issued monthly, with annual and five-year cumulative bound volumes. It is shelved on the second floor Reference Index Tables under the call number KF49 .C624.

Overall, CIS is the best index to most things related to Congress. Each year has two parts: Index, Abstract and, beginning in 1984, a Legislative History volume was added covering all Public Laws. Coverage includes all legislation introduced including bills and resolutions. Index and Abstract volumes do not index the Congressional Record or individual bills, but the Legislative History volumes cite bills and debate. This information is not comprehensively indexed elsewhere, but portions may be found on Thomas (thomas.loc.gov) or GPO Access (www.gpoaccess.gov). CIS also has their own web version of this index to which we do not subscribe as yet.

Congressional Index. Published in Chicago by the Commerce Clearinghouse beginning 1977/78 and continues to the present. It is a loose-leaf publication updated each week and shelved on the second floor Reference Index Tables under the call number J69 C6. It is a multi-volume set (one volume for each chamber of Congress plus a transition volume) covering a bill from introduction to passage including the current status of legislation. Enacted laws can be located by public law number, original bill number, subject, and sponsor. One of the best print sources for locating current status of legislation. Also contains some brief biographical information, voting records and other general information about the Legislative branch. Again, this index is unique and

Tools

- Communication
- Course Tools
- Course Map

Tips for successful legislative history

The screenshot shows a web-based course management system. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'My UIC', 'Courses', and 'Content System'. On the right side of the top bar, there are icons for 'Home', 'Help', and 'Logout'. A left-hand sidebar contains a vertical list of course-related categories: Course Information, Course Documents, Announcements, Assignments, External Links, Books, Communication, Staff Information, Virtual Classroom, Discussion Board, Groups, Tools, and Support Site. Below these is a 'Tools' section with icons for Communication, Course Tools, and Course Map, and a 'Control Panel' icon at the bottom. The main content area features a document icon and a heading: 'A comprehensive legislative history should answer the following questions and provide full citations.' Below this heading is a numbered list of 30 questions.

Home Help Logout

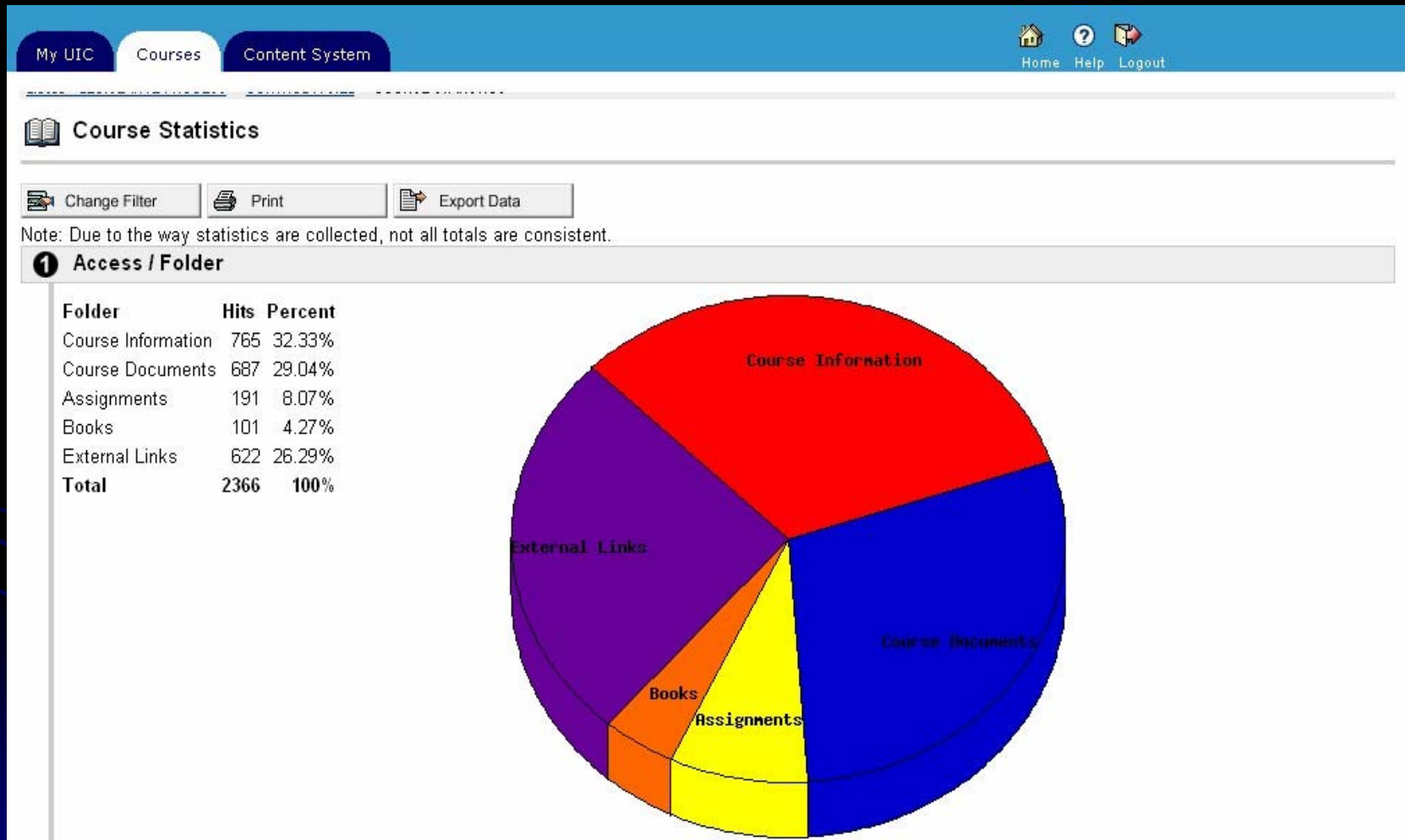
Course Information
Course Documents
Announcements
Assignments
External Links
Books
Communication
Staff Information
Virtual Classroom
Discussion Board
Groups
Tools
Support Site

Tools
Communication
Course Tools
Course Map
Control Panel

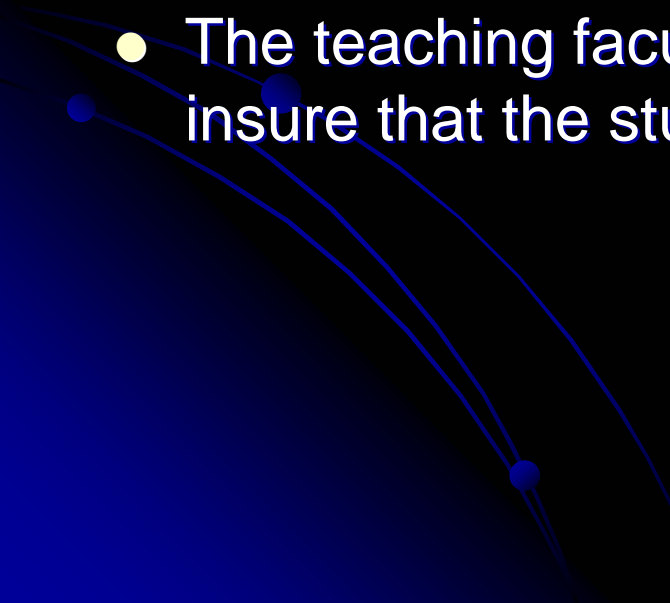
A comprehensive legislative history should answer the following questions and provide full citations.

1. Who introduced the bill?
2. What was the bill about?
3. Why was it considered necessary?
4. What chamber first introduced the bill?
5. Were there any cosponsors?
6. What day was it introduced?
7. Is it a new law or does it amend existing law?
8. Did the sponsor(s) have anything to say when the bill was introduced?
9. Is there a companion version of this bill?
10. Was this bill assigned to a committee or subcommittee?
11. If so, which committee(s) or subcommittees?
12. Were there hearings?
13. Were they public or closed-door hearings?
14. Who testified at the hearings?
15. Who supported and who opposed?
16. When were the hearings held?
17. Was the bill amended in committee or subcommittee?
18. Did the committee (s) request additional research for background?
19. Did the committee(s) issue a report?
20. Did they support or not support the bill?
21. When was the bill reported out the committees and sent to the chambers for debate and vote?
22. Was there debate? Further amendments, or was it sent back to committee.
23. Was the bill passed by both chambers?
24. Was there a conference committee?
25. When was the final vote on the legislation?
26. When was it sent to the president?
27. When did the president sign or veto the legislation?
28. If he did not sign it, did Congress overturn his veto?
29. Did the president have anything to say about the legislation?
30. What is the bills Public Law number and official Statutes citation?

Use Statistics



From Legislation to Policy

- Blackboard allows the librarian to engage with the students individually, small group, or the entire class via email. Also, we are able to have an imbedded link to our Ask A Librarian service for the students to send questions directly to the reference desk.
 - The teaching faculty and the librarian collaborate to insure that the students get the best information.
- 

We have found ...

... users are more likely to come to the library because use of Blackboard increased their curiosity

... the more we offer on Blackboard, the more students ask other faculty for similar integration with the Library.

... faculty have more time in their class to focus on what they want rather than spending time answering technical questions about government information (the difference between a congressional hearing, report, bill, etc. versus a white house report)

