Help! I’m an Accidental Government Information Librarian:
State Agency Databases Project

Daniel Cornwall, August 16, 2017

http://godort.libguides.com/statedatabases
Agenda

• What is the State Agency Databases Project?
• What sorts of questions can project guides answer?
• How much does this resource get used?
• How I can reuse project materials?
• How can I suggest new databases for the project?
• Q&A
What is the State Agency Databases Project?

- Project of ALA GODORT State and Local Documents Task Force
- Started in July 2007 on ALA Wiki, migrated to LibGuides 2016-2017
- Intended to provide freely reusable lists of links and annotations of public searchable databases produced by state agencies.
- 72 guides at http://godort.libguides.com/statedatabases
  - 51 state level guides (50 states plus DC)
  - 21 subject level guides (19 general, two single subject)
Example of State Guide: North Carolina

Table of Contents

Documents Specialist & Contact Info

Subject boxes of individual links
Example of Broad Subject Guide: Earth

Links auto-update whenever Jennifer updates “Earth” section in NC!

New links appear when Jennifer adds!
Example of Single Subject Guide: Prisoners

Initially hand created, reuse of links allows for auto-updating when document specialists update these particular links.

BUT – No automatic notification of NEW links.
Over three dozen library staff involved in project

Susanne Caro

Georgia Government Publications
Sarah Causey

Kaitlin Connolly

Daniel Cornwall

Pam Crawford

Jennifer Davison

Beth Downing

Kathy Edwards
What sorts of questions can project guides answer?

• What does my state have on ...?
• What resources on ... do states have?
• How many states have a searchable database for?
• Naturally, all the questions that can be answered by searchable databases
How much does this resource get used?

• Project pages got visited 64 times a day between 1/1/2017 and 8/14/2017.
• Most popular state guide – WA (431 visits) [NC – 111 visits]
• Most popular subject guide - Prisoner Locator Tools (1091 visits)
• 25 guides visited at least once a day
• All but one guide visited at least once a week
How I can reuse project materials?

• Entire Guides
  • from within LibGuides
How can I reuse project materials?

- Boxes (place anywhere) – Ask for box code. This iframe code will embed the NC Health, Medicine & Safety on your website:

```html
<iframe id="s-lg-widget-frame-1502766952859" wmode=""height="" scrolling="yes"
style="border: 1px solid #bbb; border-radius: 4px;"
src="/lgapi-us.libapps.com/widget_box.php?site_id=6210&widget_type=8&output_format=2&widget_title=Health%2C+Medicine%26Safety&widget_height=800&widget_width=400&widget_embed_type=1&guide_id=597059&box_id=12832952&map_id=15132151&content_only=0&config_id=1502766952859"
</iframe>
```

- Javascript also available. Direct requests for box code to danielcornwall@gmail.com
How can I suggest new databases for the project?

1. Make sure it meets the scope of the project
   a) Is it produced by a state agency? (Public universities count!)
   b) Is it an information resource where the end user varies input and gets different results based on the input?

2. Contact the documents specialist for the page with your suggestion. Contact for North Carolina is Jennifer Davison.

3. If you are unable to contact the documents specialist, email me at danielcornwall@gmail.com
Q&A
Contact Information

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Main project page: http://godort.libguides.com/statedatabases