Government Information in the 21st Century: Training Librarians to be Government Information Specialists

IMLS Grant Overview

Government Information in the 21st Century is a continuing education program to train reference and public services librarians and library workers in the use of government information. The program initially focuses on five states: Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.

The program addresses identified issues related to

- General lack of awareness of and needed skills to make effective use of government information resources.
- Perceived lack of confidence in the use of government resources, and
- · Limited training and support of non-depository library staff.

Grant Timeline and Depository Librarians' Grant Participation

Year One:

The first year will be spent developing the Train-the-Trainer Conference, the training modules, and the WebJunction grant website (http://www.webjunction.org/gi21).

Depository Librarian Participants will:

- Help prioritize module topics and develop training modules,
- Participate in the Train-the-Trainer Conference, and
- Work with State Coordinators to develop state-level training plans.

Year Two:

The second year will center on the participating states' training program implementation.

Depository Librarian Participants will:

- Do at least two training sessions/workshops in their local region/state,
- Participate in program evaluation, and
- Contribute to WebJunction's online community.

Have comments or questions? Contact:

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Training Depository Librarians to Train Non-Depository Librarians

Depository Library Council Meeting Denver, CO, April 17, 2007 Tim Byrne, University of Colorado Kirsten Clark, University of Colorado

IMLS Grant

- Government Information in the Twenty-First Century
 - Laura K. Bush Librarians in the Twenty-First Century, Institute of Museums and Library Services Grant

Today's Presentation

- Tim Byrne, Principle Investigator
 - How the grant came to be
- Kirsten Clark, Project Manager
 - What we have done
 - Conference planning
 - WebJunction
 - What we will be doing
 - Train-the-Trainers Conference
 - Year 2 Training of Non-depository Librarians

Genesis of the Grant

- The University of Colorado at Boulder is one of two Regionals for the State of Colorado and also serves as the Regional for the State of Wyoming.
- One of the ways CU tries to carry out Regional responsibilities is by holding regular meetings with selectives.

Priorities of Selectives

- At a meeting with selective depository librarians several years ago, I asked what services they would most like to have their Regional provide.
- The Response:
 - 1. Training
 - 2. Training
 - 3. Training

GoPIG Training

- The Government Publications Interest Group of Colorado and Wyoming
- Provides regular updates on FDLP developments and ALA GODORT activities.
- Tries to have some sort of presentation or training at every meeting
- Usually holds one multi-day meeting a year devoted to training

GoPIG Training

Training/presentations done by depository librarians

- Occasionally, meetings are held at federal agencies/libraries or agency staff are invited to make presentation
- Usually, the depository librarians do a much better job than agency staff

Five-State Government Documents Conference

- Grew out of joint Arizona-New Mexico meetings
- Expanded to Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah
- 2000: Flagstaff, AZ
- 2004: Santa Fe, NM
- 2006: Boulder, CO
- 2008: Utah?

GPO Consultant Proposal

- GPO employee/consultant based at the University of Colorado at Boulder
- Provide training to Depository Librarians in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.
- Funding never materialized.

CU Hires Grant Writer

- April 2005: The University of Colorado hired Liz Bishoff as a grant writer.
- Liz asked CU library faculty to fill out a survey on their possible grant interest
- Despite my strong interest in digitization and retrospective cataloging of government documents, I found myself saying my primary interest was in training government documents librarians.

Finding a Grant

- A meeting was held with Liz Bishoff to further discuss grant possibilities
- Liz identified the IMLS Laura K Bush Librarians in Twenty-First Century Grant as a strong possibility
- After further discussion, it was decided to pursue this grant

Planning Committee

- A planning committee was formed
 - Chris Brown, University of Denver
 - McKinley Seilaff, Colorado College
- It was decided to build on the Five-State Government Documents Conference and the GPO Consultant Proposal and have our proposal cover five states.

Planning Committee Expanded

- Janet Fisher, Arizona State Library, Public Records, and Archives
- Laurie Canepa, New Mexico State Library
- Dan Barkley, University of New Mexico
- Venice Beske, Wyoming State Library
- Robin Haun-Mohamed, GPO
- Susan Simmons, Broomfield Public Library

Evolution of Training Concept

- Initially, depository librarians were to the primary audience for the grant funded training.
- However, our discussions about the growth of freely accessible electronic government information on the web and the transition of the FDLP to a predominantly electronic program led us to believe we also needed to train nondepository librarians.

Two Issues with Electronic Government Information

- First: the reduction in distribution of tangible products to FDLP was going to result in changes within depository libraries.
 - Processing staff shifted to other duties
 - Reduction in size of depository collection
- What would the role of the Depository Librarian be in the Future?

Two Issues with Electronic Government Information

 Second: With the growth of Internet publishing by government agencies, nondepository libraries have access to government information and no longer need to refer patrons to a depository library.

BUT

- Many non-depository librarians are still reluctant to use government resources.
- Fear of government documents
- Lack of expertise and training with government information
- Referrals are still made to depository libraries. The referrals are not so much to the collection as they are referrals to the expertise of the depository librarian.

Depository Librarian as Trainer

- I strongly believe that one of the future roles of the Depository Librarian is to train other librarians to use electronic government information.
- The goal of our grant is to help Depository Librarians make the transition from being custodians of government document collections to being government information trainers.

Central Repository of Training Material

- Built into our plans was the idea of having training modules gathered together at one site that could be drawn upon by any of our trainers, or any depository librarians across the country involved in training librarians.
- The training modules would be aimed at librarians, not library patrons or the general public.

Central Repository of Training Material

- GPO offered to host the training modules, but it was felt that GPO was not yet ready to offer the sort of system we needed.
- After conversations with OCLC, we decided to use WebJunction, an online community for library staff offering resources, courses, and communication.

Final Plan – Year One

- The first year will be spent developing the Train the Trainer Conference, the lesson modules, and the WebJunction grant website.
- Depository Librarian Participants will:
 - Help prioritize lesson modules,
 - Participate in the Train the Trainers Conference, and
 - Work with State Coordinator to develop state-level training plans.

Final Plan – Year Two

- The second year will center on the participating states' training programs implementation.
- Depository Librarian Participants will
 - Be involved in at least two training sessions/workshops in their state,
 - Participate in program evaluation, and
 - Contribute to WebJunction's online community.

Government Information in the 21st Century (Gi21) IMLS Grant

Train-the-Trainer Conference

June 6-8, 2007
University of Colorado at Boulder

Conference Concepts

- What is Train-the-Trainer?
- Overview of e-Government
- Adult Learning
- Using WebJunction
- Teaching the modules
- State Training Plans

Conference Attendees

- Depository Librarian or member of library staff that does training
- Travel expenses paid for by grant
- Required to do at least 2 training sessions/workshops between July 2007 and September 2008
- Contribute to State-level Planning

Attendees by State

- Arizona 11
- Colorado 18
- New Mexico 11
- Utah 3
- Wyoming 5

What is a Module?

- Covers a broad subject topic
- Allows for different types of training
- Allows trainers to pick and choose what parts of the topic to train on (granular)
- Learn one module, train on any of them
- Allows for easy addition of new information

The Modules

- Initial module topics list developed by Planning Committee
- Survey of Depository Librarians to rank topics
- Volunteers from five states and beyond
- 3 5 members per team

Module List (by June)

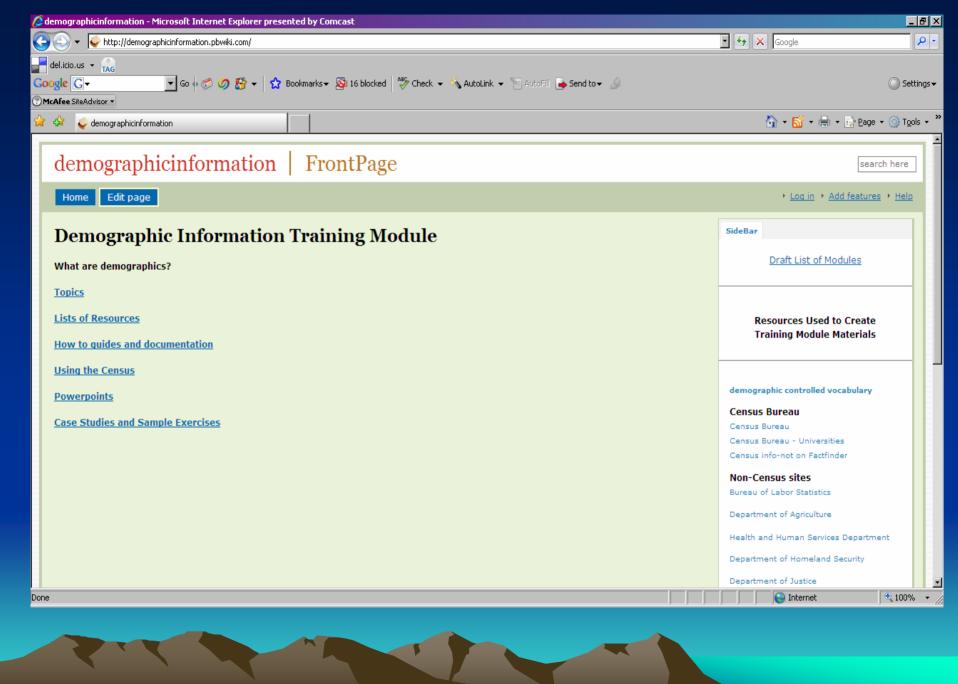
- 1. Demographic Information
- 2. Legal Concerns
- 3. Health and Medicine
- 4. Small Business and Entrepreneurship
- 5. Citizenship and Immigration
- 6. Energy and Natural Resources
- 7. Consumer Information
- 8. Crime and Justice
- 9. History and Genealogy
- 10. Environment (Science)

Module List (by August 2007)

- 11. Maps and Transportation
- 12. Economy and Trade
- 13. Education
- 14. Science and Technology
- 15. Minority Issues
- 16. Elections and the Political Process
- 17. Military and War
- 18. Recreation and Culture
- 19. Foreign Country Information
- 20. International Relations
- 21. Kids' Stuff

Module Development

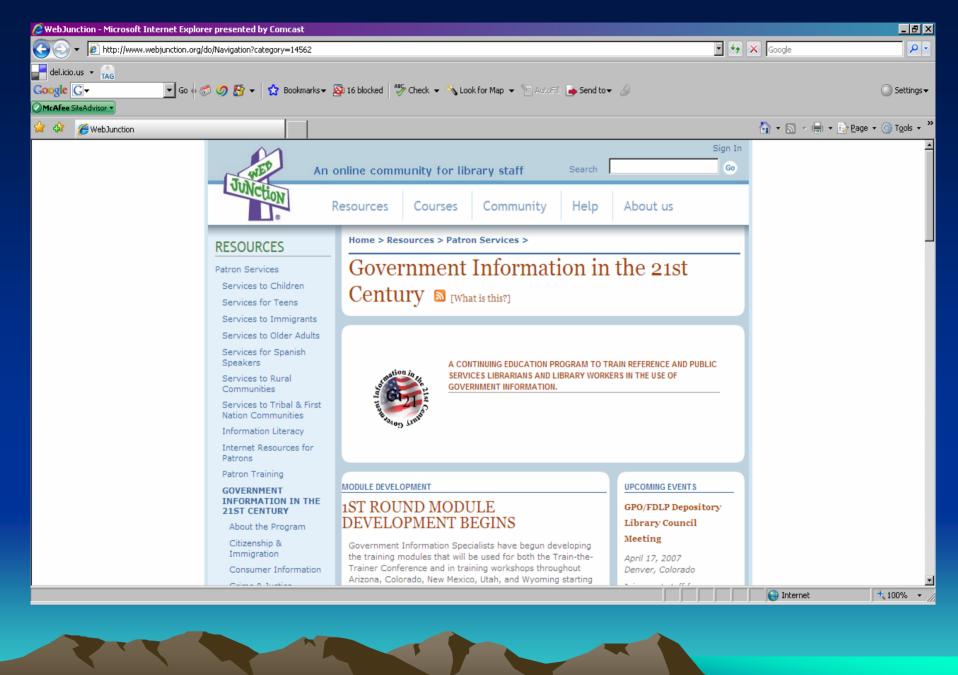
- Wikis
 - Collaboration across states, region
 - Other modules can see what is being done
 - Easy transfer of information from wiki to WebJunction
- Test module Demographics

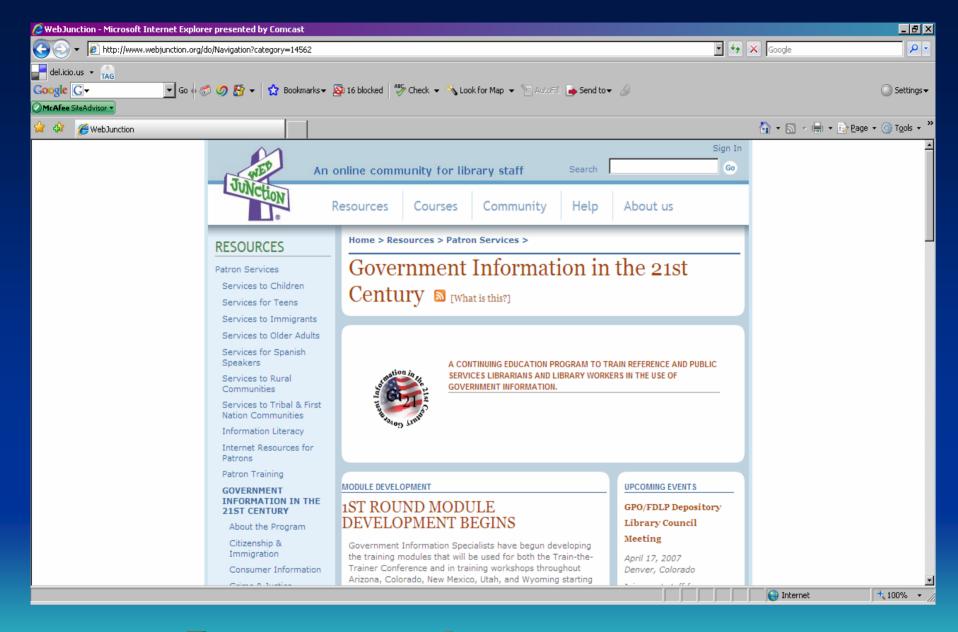


Two Interfaces of WebJunction

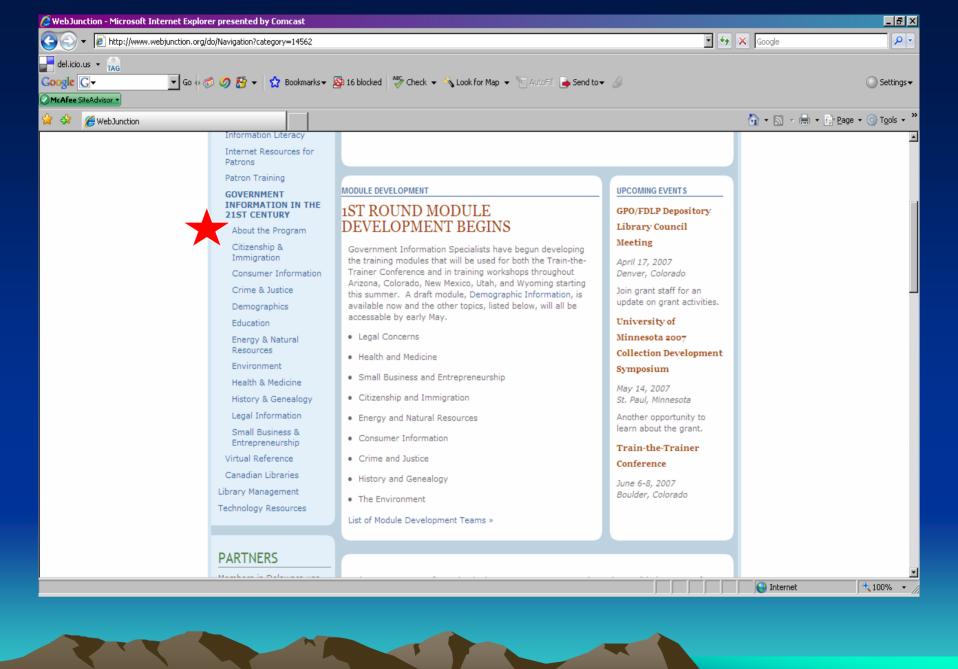
- Online Community for Library Staff
- Content Management System

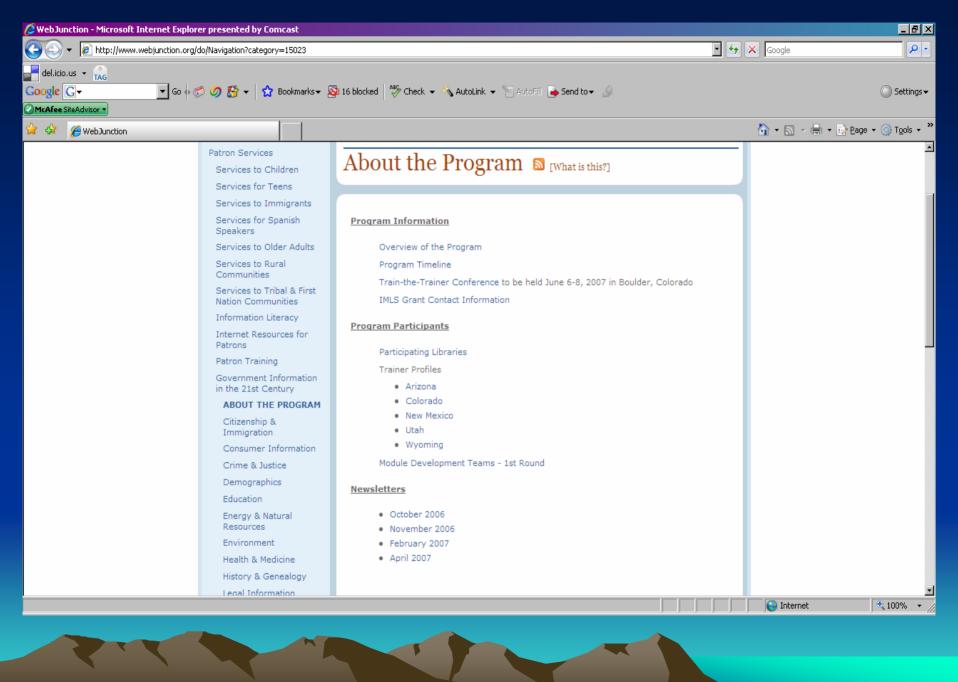
- Development of Content for Modules
- Structured Configuration





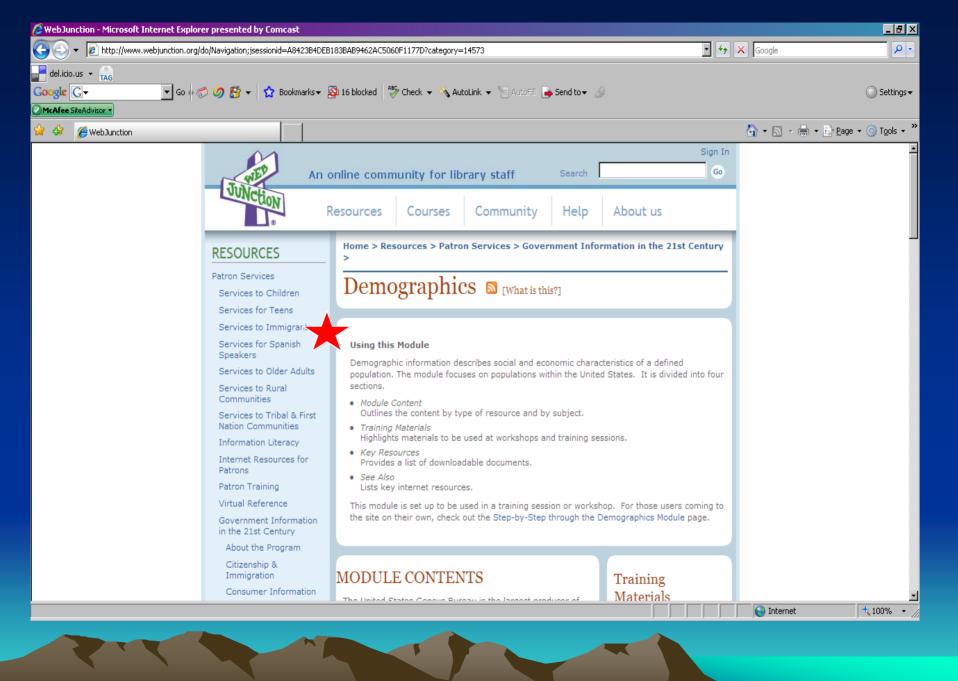
http://www.webjunction.org/gi21

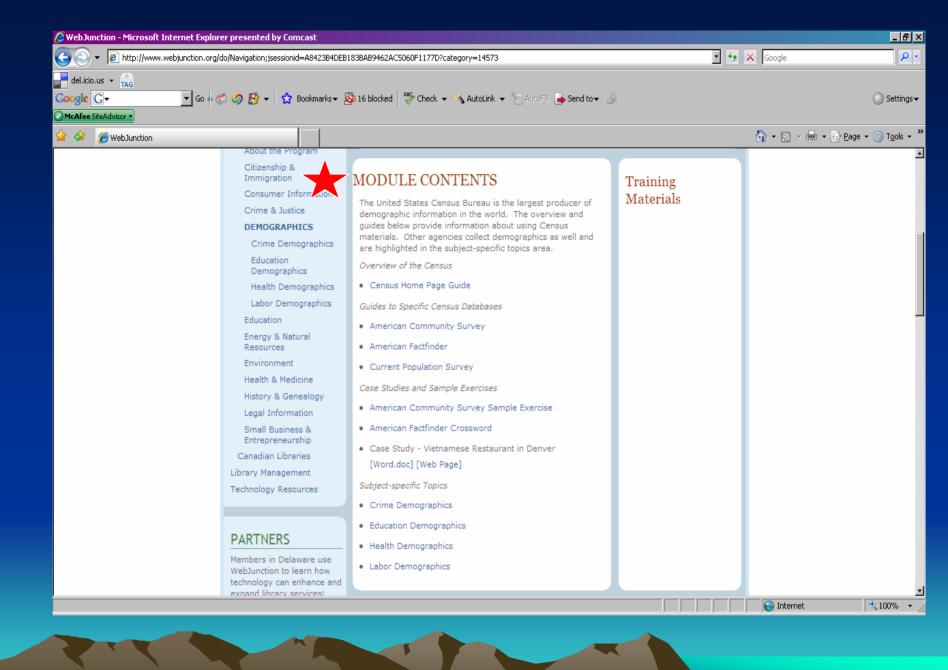


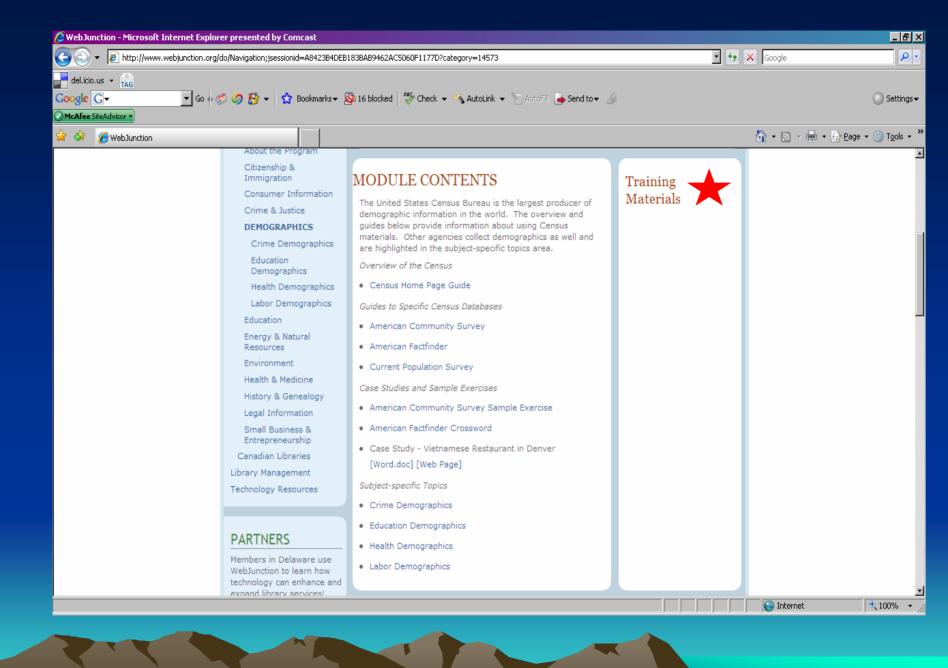


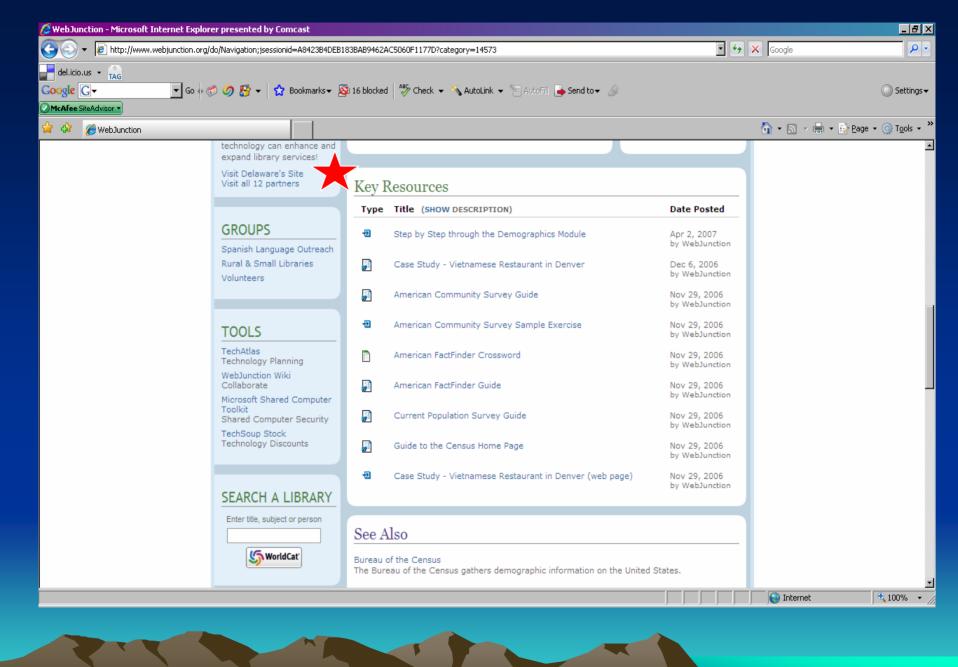
Module Template

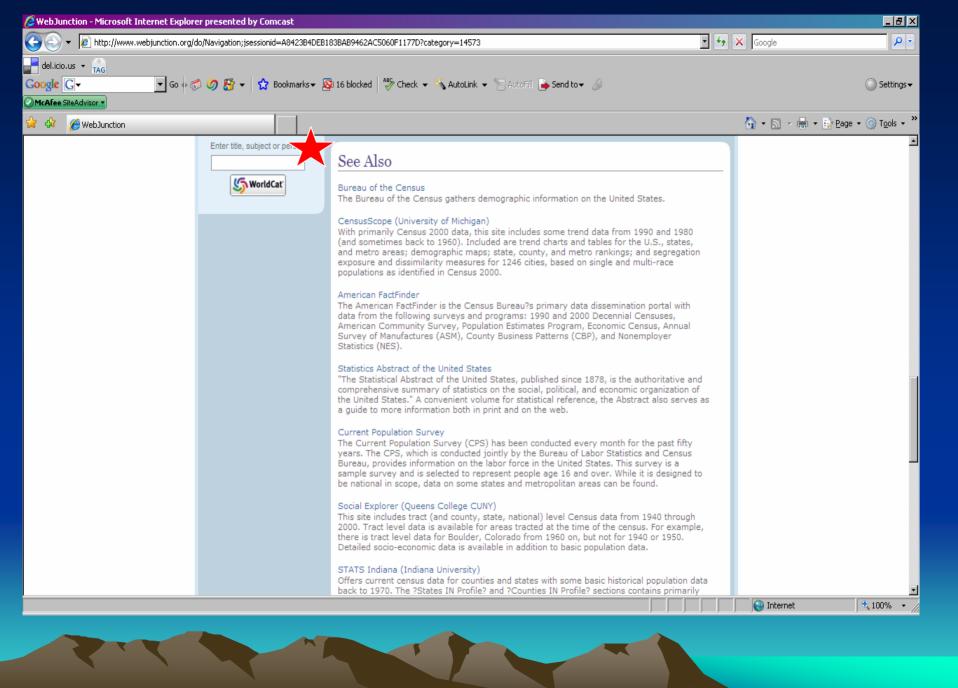
- Using the Module
- Module Contents
- Training Materials
- Key Resources
- See Also





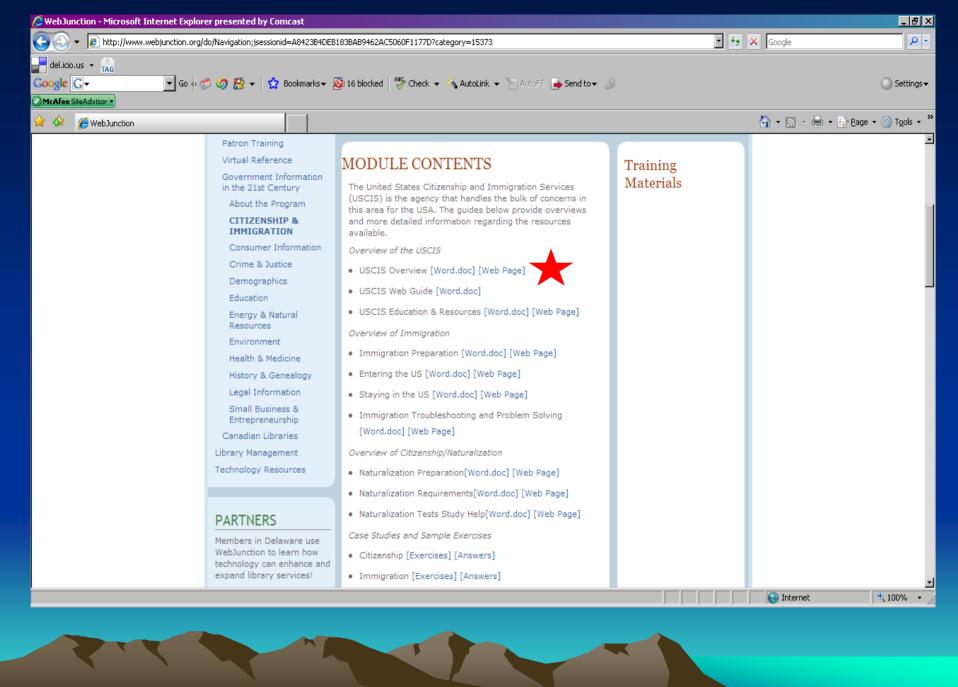


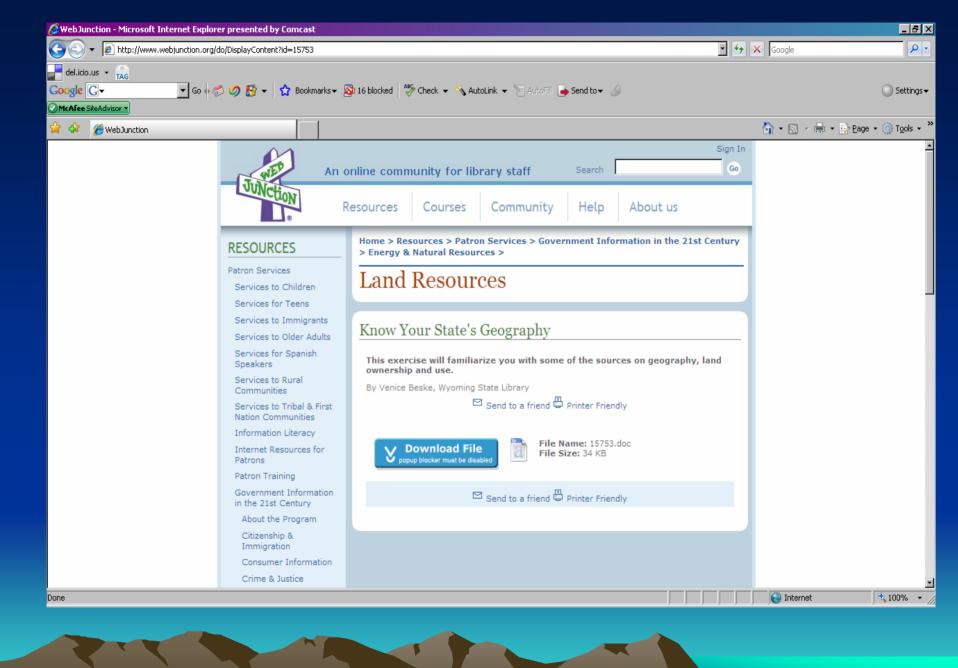


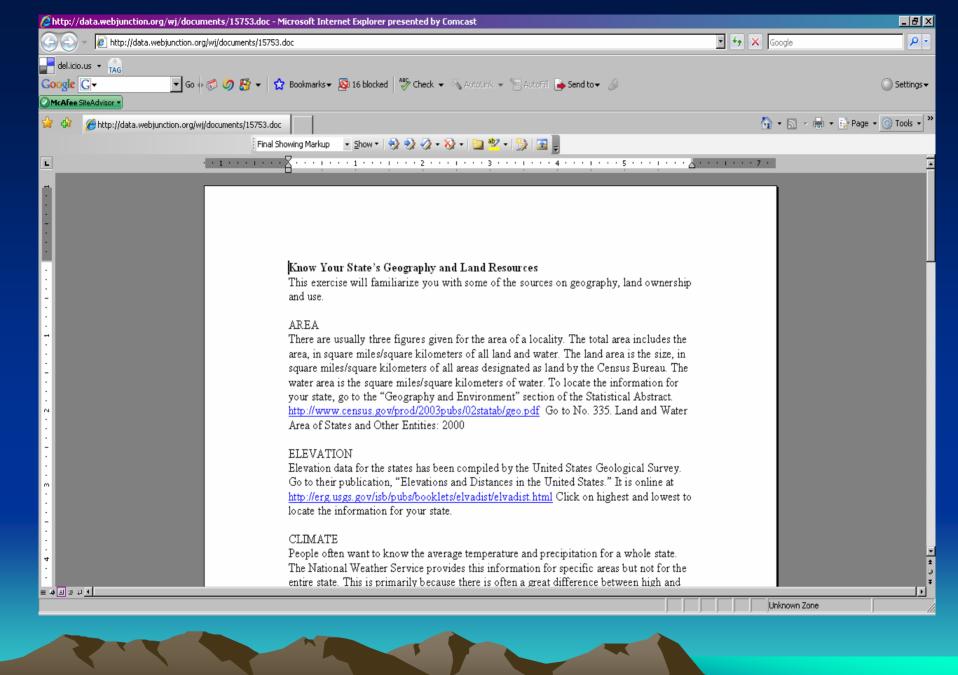


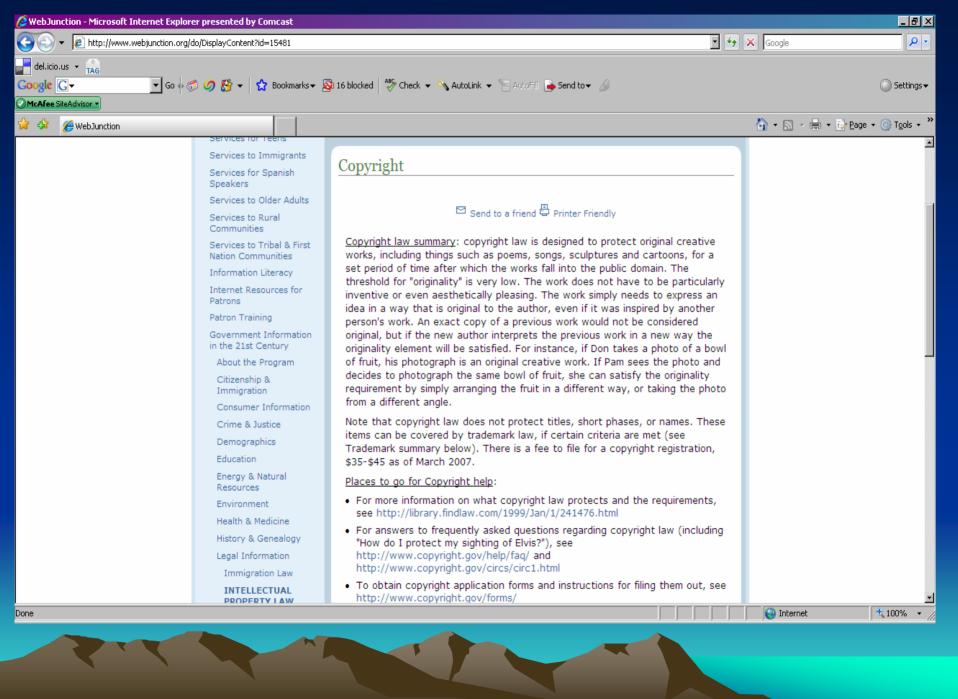
Fitting In

- Multiple versions of same document
 - Handout
 - Web Page



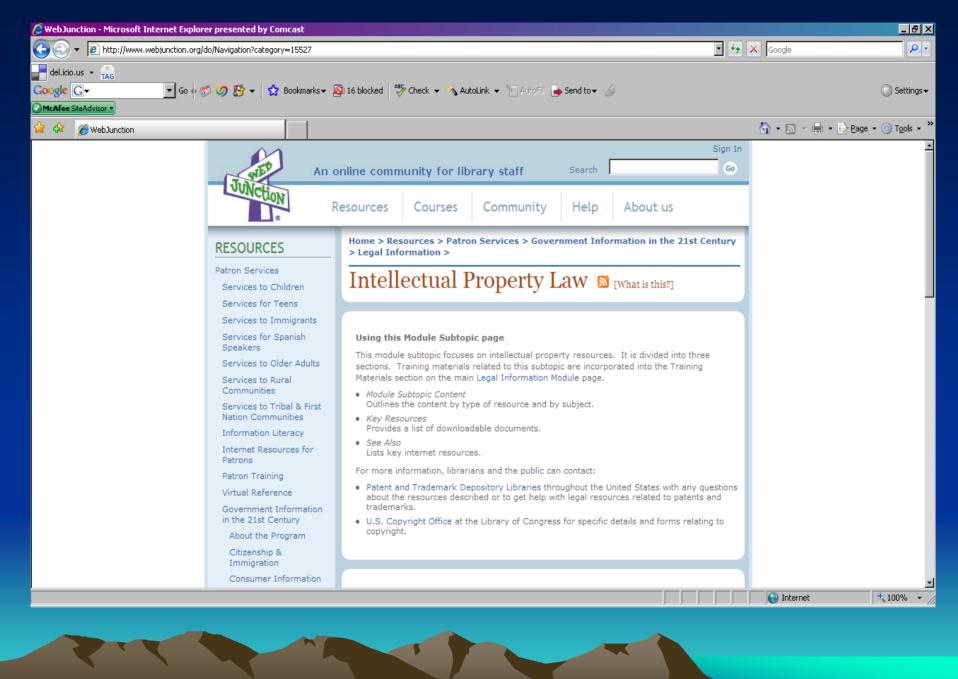


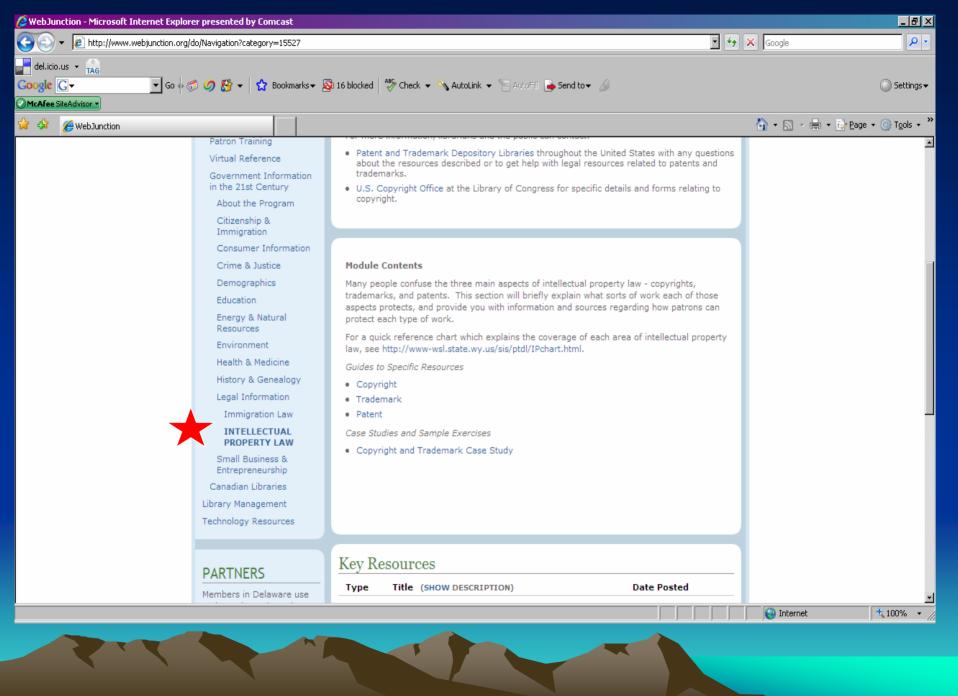


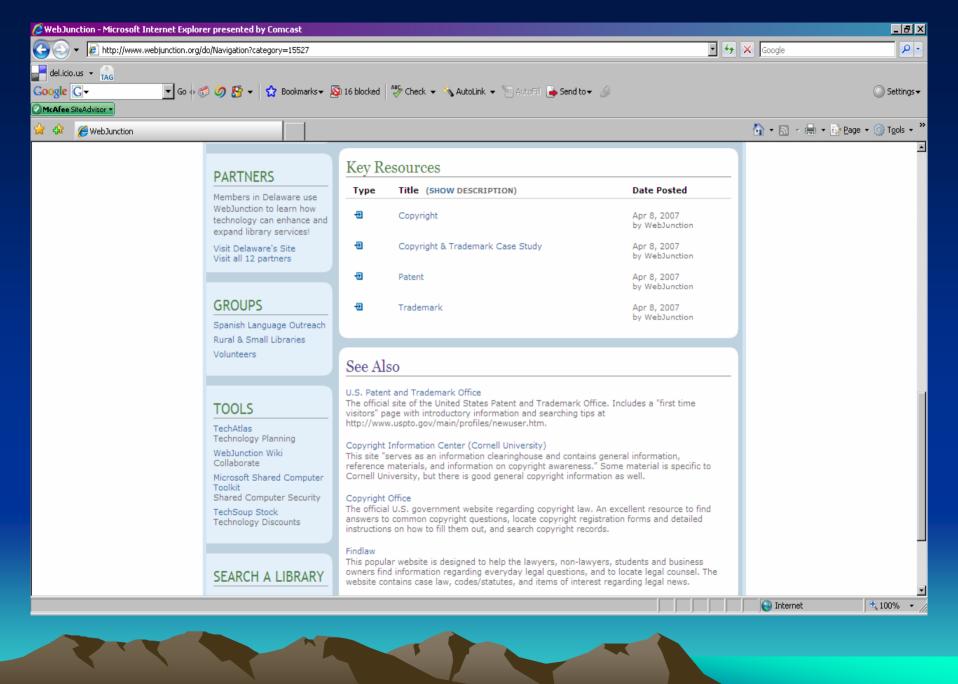


Fitting In

- Multiple versions of same document
- Subtopics
 - Too much information to fit on one page
 - Defining what should be a subtopic







Next Steps

- Best Practices for adding WebJunction content
- State surveys of non-depository libraries
- Finishing Round 1 Module Development
- Evaluation Development
 - Pre- and Post- tests
 - Conference and state-level training
- Training Materials
- Train-the-Trainer Conference

After the Conference

- WebJunction Community
- Develop next round of Modules
- Promotion
- Implementation of State Training Plans and begin training sessions/workshops at state level.
- Evaluation of training sessions/trainers
- Adding content to WebJunction

Contact Information

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