

Revitalizing a Government Library: The Case of the Documents and Maps Collection at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras

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Abstract

The Documents and Maps Collection at the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) Rio Piedras campus is undergoing a vast revitalization process as a method to divulge federal resources relevant to various academic fields on campus, both on-site and online. This poster showcases the efforts made to resurge referencing on the 90-year-old federal depository collection and discusses the achieved results since the project's initiation in August 2016.

Introduction

Since its designation in 1928, the mission of the Documents and Maps collection from the UPR's Library System serves to support academic and investigative activities in campus. With this in mind, in mid-August of 2016, the collection initiated an integration and organization project surrounding referencing activities to further support specific academic needs in campus, such as history, social sciences, urban planning, and business administration. By using the Association of College and Research Libraries' (ACRL) *Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education*, the Documents and Maps collection amplifies its outreach with the University of Puerto Rico's academic community. The methods include the use of the platform *LibGuides* to promote federal collections, the transfer of resources to other libraries, and the development of hands-on workshops for students and professors.

LibGuides

The Documents and Maps Collection launched a center-oriented website, as well as 7 new subject guides, via the platform *LibGuides* by *Springshare*. The website includes general information about resources available for consultation at the collection, as well as hyperlinks (URLs) for online resources, and bilingual support.

The newly developed online subject guides include:

- ***Puerto Rico en GPO*** (Puerto Rico in GPO)
- ***Primera Guerra Mundial*** (World War I)
- ***Segunda Guerra Mundial*** (World War II)
- ***Huracanes*** (Hurricanes)

Coursework Integration

Complying with the ACRL's framework *Information Creation as a Process*, the Head Librarian of the collection offered hands-on workshops. The purposes of these classes were to raise awareness of government resource platforms (*GPO Catalog*, *govinfo*...), collaborate in the process of information creation, and assist students and professors in their academic development. The workshops were modified according to specific course needs, such as subject area discussion or techniques on how to locate resources on the *GPO Catalog* and *govinfo*. These classes were offered for undergraduate courses such as *Modern World Politics* (CIPO 4275), *Current Political Conflicts in the Islamic World* (CIPO 5005) and *Subjects and Problems of the Western Culture* (HUMA 3033).

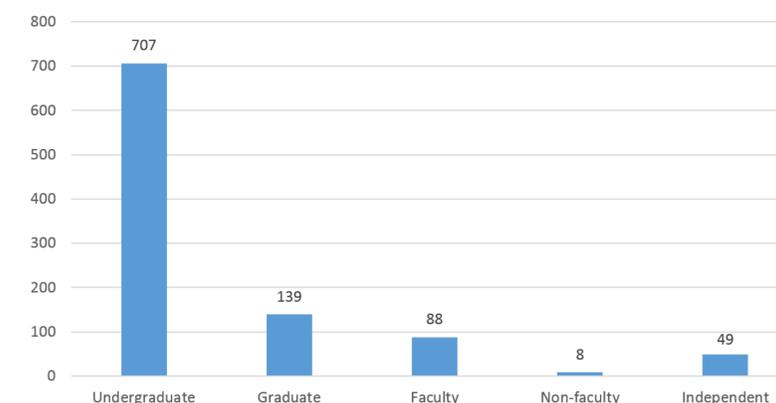
Transferring Resources to Other Libraries

In an attempt to further support library activities within the UPR's Library System, and as part of an ongoing evaluation process of the collection, a numerous amount of government resources were transferred to several libraries across the System. This has resulted in a substantial space reduction in the collection in an attempt to benefit GPO's online offerings, as well as a partnership collaboration with different library units, such as the Business Administration Library, the Monserrate Santana de Palés Social Work Library, and the Circulation Department.

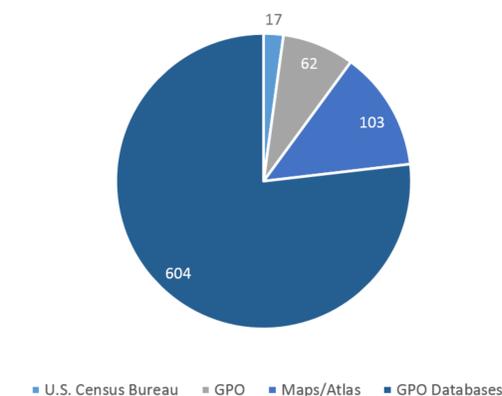
Results

Since the fiscal year 2016-2017, there was a notable increase in patron visitation and consulted resources. 96 patrons visited the collection between August 2016 and May 2017, and 996 patrons visited between August 2017 and May 2018, an increase of 983% - even with a 4-month closure of the José M. Lázaro Library due to damages caused by Hurricane Maria.

Patron Distribution, FY 2017-2018



Consulted Government Resources



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