

GETTING INVOLVED WITH BLACKBOARD

BLACKBOARD FACTS

- Records show that 44,559 students, faculty and staff logged into Blackboard during the fall 2003 semester.
- On the busiest day, over 80,000 files - more than 18 gigabytes of data - were downloaded.
- Peak usage usually being around 2 p.m.
- Rule of thumb - Blackboard is not busy when it gets less than 10,000 Web hits in an hour.
- Blackboard is consistently the #1 search term on UT's Search engine.

Unique courses:

Fall 2000 (pilot) – 48
Fall 2001 – 656
Spring 2003 - 1,041
Fall 2003 – 2,256
Fall 2004 – 2,271

Instructors:

Fall 2000 (pilot) - 30
Fall 2001 – 354
Spring 2003 – n/a
Fall 2003 – 1,131
Fall 2004 – 1,571

THINGS YOU CAN DO:

- Help faculty link to relevant library resources and services within their course page.
- Post course-specific research guides.
- Create a research tips thread in the discussion board.
- Offer online office hours and chat consultations in the “collaboration” space.
- When planning a class...
 - Ask to become a Course Builder.
 - Upload research guides, assignment, etc. before your class.
 - Add your personal information under the “faculty information” tab.
 - Consider posting a “pre-test” to gauge students’ current knowledge and to help you tailor class content.
- When teaching a class, anchor your presentation in the documents you’ve added to their course page.

FURTHER READING

Costello, B., Lenholt, R., & Stryker, J. (2004, September). Using Blackboard in Library Instruction: Addressing the Learning Styles of Generations X and Y. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 30(6), 452- 460.

Cox, C. (2002, January). Becoming Part of the Course: using Blackboard to extend one-shot library instruction. *College & Research News*, 63(1), 11- 13, 39.

George, J., & Martin, K. (2004, November). Forging the Library Courseware Link. *College & Research News*, 65(10), 594-597.

Sample email to faculty who've requested a class:

Thank you for your instruction session request. I've scheduled your class for

I'm wondering if you use Blackboard? If so, I could upload a library research guide directly to your Course Documents section before the library instruction session. There is a limited access category in Blackboard called *Course Builder* that will allow me to do so with your approval. This way, students can review the handout in advance and potentially get a head start on their research. Additionally, students can access this handout at any time.

If this sounds like a good option, go to this link for more details and instructions on how to designate a *Course Builder* in Blackboard.

www.lib.....

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you,

Sample email to faculty offering your instruction and reference services

As part of my role as (*your subject*) bibliographer, I am available to provide research assistance to you and your students in a variety of ways. You'll find descriptions of these services and request forms online at: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/services/instruction/faculty/facultyindex.html>. You should also feel free to contact me directly.

Also, if your courses have a blackboard presence, many of these services can be delivered through your course page. For example, I could post research guides for your students, monitor a research tips discussion board, or hold weekly office hours in the collaboration space.

Finally, general reference assistance is also still available to you and your students through our Ask A Librarian program: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/services/reference/>.

Have a great semester. I'm looking forward to working with you,