

One-stop shopping for college rankings

The Education and Social Science Library at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign offers one-stop shopping for Web-based college ranking sites.

Found at <http://www.library.uiuc.edu/edx/rankings.htm>, the College and University Rankings page provides links to ranking services for various areas of higher education including undergraduate, graduate, business, law, and international programs. One can also find a link-filled discourse concerning the ongoing controversy surrounding reputation-based rankings and a lengthy bibliography on the topic.

The Rankings page tries to emphasize caution in the use of college ranking services and urges users to investigate the methodology of any service under consideration. Toward that end, a lengthy section dealing with the ongoing controversy over rankings is provided. The page's cautionary section is a guide to some very interesting networked information on the college ranking process. Users will find this information helpful when trying to evaluate individual ranking services and when trying to decide how much weight rankings deserve in the college selection process.

The College and University Rankings page was created by the authors. It debuted in October 1997 and gathered a small amount of hits during its first half year of existence. In March and April 1998, the page was submitted to various search engines including Alta Vista, Northern Light, and InfoSeek. Following the site's listing in Yahoo! in May, its use skyrocketed. The page continues to grow in popularity and

is now receiving between 25 and 30,000 hits per month.

Over 99% of the page's users are from outside the immediate Uni-

versity of Illinois community and these users generate a steady stream of e-mail concerning rankings. In making special efforts to assist this new group of patrons, the librarians of the Education and Social Science Library discovered the power of the Web in reaching out to nontraditional users. Bringing some organization to a small corner of the Internet and serving an entirely new audience have been two very satisfying outcomes made possible by the creation and maintenance of the College and University Rankings Page.—*Daniel Burgard, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, dburgard@uiuc.edu; Stephanie R. Davis, University of Southern California, srdavis@usc.edu*



ILLINOIS LIBRARY GATEWAY COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY RANKINGS
Education and Social Science Library
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

General / Undergraduate Rankings | Graduate Program Rankings | Business School Rankings
Law School Rankings | International (Non-US) Rankings
(Sites are listed in alphabetical order within each category. Some sites are listed in more than one category.)

Caution and Controversy | Print Sources | Bibliography on College Rankings
About This Page

vices sponsored by the Central Michigan University (CMS) Libraries and the CMU College of Extended Learning. The conference will be held in Portland, Oregon, April 26–28, 2000. Proposal abstracts of not more than 500 words are due by March 12, 1999. A copy of the Call for Presentations and details about the conference are on the Web at <http://www.lib.cmich.edu/ocls>. Click on "Resources for Off-Campus Librarians." Or contact Connie Hildebrand at CMU: voice: (517) 774-6080; toll-free fax: (877) 329-6257; e-mail: connie.hildebrand@cmich.edu. ■

