LibGuides: Simplifying the User Experience

Presented by: the LOUIS LibGuides Pilot Group
LOUIS LibGuides Project

• Suggested by the Research and Development Committee for acquisition
• Diverse pilot group recruited
The Players

• Lora Amsberryaugier – University of New Orleans
• Shanna Clevenger – Delgado Community College
• Sheryl Curry – University of Louisiana - Lafayette
• Nicole Morello – Baton Rouge Community College
• Wil Peters – Louisiana State University - Shreveport
• Brian Sherman – McNeese State University
Product Overview

• In a nutshell
  – LibGuides is an easy to use, web 2.0 content management and publishing system, that combines the best features of social networks, wikis, and blogs into one package designed specifically for libraries.

• For more information go to the LibGuides and LibAnswers — An Overview LUC session today at 2:45
Suggested Uses

• Library Webpage
• Subject Guides
• You’re only limited by your imagination!
University of New Orleans
Earl K. Long Library

- Learning LibGuides
  - Subject Guides
  - Added widget
  - Added API Utility
  - Added “Add this to LibGuides” Browser Button
Add widgets to existing web pages to connect to LibGuides content.
UNO - Earl K. Long Library

Using an API Utility
UNO – Earl K. Long Library

“Post to LibGuides” button
UNO – Earl K. Long
Creating the A-Z Resources List

A-Z Resource List
Tags:
This guide contains a full list of resources organized by name.
Last update: Oct 6th, 2010 URL: http://libguides.uno.edu/databases

Alphabetical Listing of Electronic Databases

The Earl K. Long Library subscribes to a variety of electronic databases that match the research interests and curriculum of the University of New Orleans students and faculty.

The Library also provides access to "free" or "open access" electronic resources of interest to the UNO community.

Please contact us if you need assistance using these resources. If we're not online, please email or call us at 504-280-6549.
Earl K. Long Library

- Still to Come
  - Adding Collaborators
  - Rating Links and Comments
• No Clue....... 😞
  – Research
    • Viewed other libraries pages
      – Southeastern Louisiana University Library
      – Scottsdale Community College Library
    • Search the LibGuides Help pages
      – LibGuides FAQ + Answers
      – The Springshare Lounge
        » Forum
    • LibGuide Replacing Your Library Web Site?
Old webpage

- Basic webpage
- Scattered information
- Outdated links and old information
- Too many pages

LibGuides + Patron = 😊
Creating a LibGuide webpage

– Site is hosted, by Libguides
  – Gave the library instant access and control of information
– Organize information
– Update the look of the page
– Keep better statistics on webpage usage.
– Provide better support for our patrons
University of Louisiana – Lafayette

- New approach for instruction
- Consistent design
- Opportunity for all staff
- Well-supported by FAQs, Help pages, forums
Getting Started

• Create a template
• Always have a “home”
• Add new tabs as needed
• Command Bar on top

LibGuides + Patron = Happy Patron

SM Curry, UL Lafayette
Delivering Content

- Can copy content from another Guide or Page
- Choice of box links
- Many Web 2.0 features
- Showcase your library’s resources

LibGuides + Patron = Happy Patron

SM Curry, UL Lafayette
Widgets and other Fun Stuff
So, Do We Like It?

- Faculty approve
- Students like it
- We like it
- Budget considerations
- UL Lafayette adopting Drupal CMS
Baton Rouge Community College

• What LibGuides means for us
  – Freedom!
    • Fills the gap due to the limited amount of web pages allotted to the library
    • Able to update content in a timely manner
    • Allows faculty and librarian collaboration on subject guides
    • Saves our copy budget
    • Allows control of our own forms (i.e. comment/suggestion book and materials request) and policies
Baton Rouge Community College

• Items we wanted available
  – Forms for comments/suggestions and materials request
  – Library Policy and Procedure Manual (currently being updated)
  – Collection Development Policy
  – Subject Guides to replace print brochures
  – Specialized pages devoted to outreach activities (i.e. SLEUTH, Current Events, Library Club, etc.)
Baton Rouge Community College

• Our site
  http://guides.mybrcc.edu
  – 16 guides active with more coming out each month
  • Popular guides include:
    Nursing Resources, Library Information, Collection Development Policies and Materials Request, and Current Events You Should Know About
Baton Rouge Community College

• Feedback we’ve received
  – Nursing Accreditation visitors
    • LibGuides played a part in the library getting kudos from the accreditation visitors
  – Spanish instructors
    • Thanks to LibGuides instructors will be able to direct students to additional resources.
  – Nursing faculty and students
    • Loved the page!
  – History instructors
    • Pleased with primary resources section
Louisiana State University - Shreveport

• What is my intent/aim of guide
  – Is it a traditional library pathfinder?
  – Will it replace my handout?
  – Will they be specific to my liaison areas?
  – What about general subject guides?
    • e.g., searching e-Library catalog
    • Coordinating (or not) with other librarians
• Design Considerations
• What is template?
  – LibGuides community—copy from another?
• Images? Only text?
• Colors?
• Videos?
• PowerPoints?
• Challenges & Solutions

• Image quality
  – SnagIt screen capture images pixelated
    • Issues of balance: resolution & output
    • File format? jpeg, gif, tif, png???

• Resurrected our library wiki, creating folder for ref. librarians & LibGuides
• **The Springshare Lounge**
  – Discussions, forums, and information for users of Springshare products

• **FAQS**
  – Alternative email if no FAQ satisfaction
    • Email question promptly answered

• **Help directory**
• Using LibGuide in class instruction (in place of handout or PowerPoint)
  – Conceptual difference
    • direct link to databases vs directions to databases
    • Concern for too much info, too many pages—less clarity
  – Students can refer to it independently afterwards
    • Bibliographies continually updated
    • Appropriate site to mount info/tutorial video
    • Point-of-use; instructional page on how to search catalog w/quick-search catalog box
  – So much more versatility than a PPT or Word.doc

• LibGuide replacing one-shot instructional class
  – Fraction of classes request sessions anyway
  – Instruct. Class = a lot of info at once; in one ear...

• Comments (monitoring/responding)
Pros

• Point-of-use instruction
  – Direct links
  – Search boxes
  – Videos and tutorials

• Ability to create subject terms and tags

• Ability to generate custom links

• Reduces the amount spent on copies that are soon out of date
Pros cont’

• Easy Reporting Statistics by Guide/page/links/
• With permission you can copy any guide
• LibGuides Community is vast
• Broken Link Checker
Cons

- No notification when pages are updated.
- Nitpick – doesn’t recognize & and “and” as alternate spelling.
- I can’t figure out how to get my A-Z Resources list to display at the top of the page listings.
Tips

• Create a few standard boxes that apply on each homepage
• Linking to other boxes saves time, but...
• Keep it clean and easy to navigate
• Create a template, to keep things uniform.
Questions? Comments?

LibGuides + Patron = 😊
UGENT

Urgent! The Louisiana Board of Regents has reduced funding for e-resources available through the LOUIS network. These resources will be available for 2 months and then may no longer be available.