LibGuides Librarians: In and Out of the Box

- Background: LibGuides @ BC
- Research Guides & Changing Roles
- Librarians Unleashed: Library 2.0 & Radical Trust
- Collaboration: Learning & Working Together
- Moving Forward: Next Steps & Ongoing Issues
75 static guides converted in August 2007

Out with the old...

…and in with the new.

LibGuides Librarians

Electronic Resources & Libraries 2008
Now more than 90 guides, including:

- Subject guides
- Course guides
- General research guides

24 librarians/authors managing from 1 to 10 guides each
Research Guides: Changing Roles

Old Model
- No author access to guides
- All changes through Webmaster
  - Minor changes
  - Major revisions
  - New guides
- Lack of timely updates
- Little opportunity or incentive to innovate
Research Guides: Changing Roles

New Model

Hello Sally, welcome to LibGuides @ BC!
Below, you will find all the controls you need to manage your guides. For assistance and important system notices please visit the 'Support' tab.

Create New Guide / Edit Guide
Select a guide or page to edit
Click on the link above to create a new guide (watch this how-to video first) or select an existing guide to edit.

Customize Your Profile
The box on the right shows your default profile. You will be able to edit the profile information on individual Guides, but you should customize your default profile as well. Watch how-to video.

Add "Post to LibGuides" Button to Your Browser
With this button you can add content to your Guides from anywhere on the web. Highly recommended! See the button in action.

Add Pages to Guides created by Other Users
Add pages to the Guides created by other users. If you are an editor for any of the guides, use this option to select the guide to edit.

Delete One of Your Guides
Keep in mind that this operation is irreversible. Once you delete your Guide, it's gone. Proceed with caution.
Research Guides: Changing Roles

“It’s the tool we were all waiting to have. Your web skills can be average - or even below average - and a nicely organized research guide will appear.”

- Leslie Homzie, History/Political Science Librarian, Boston College

“LibGuides allows library instruction to be flexible, current, and constantly evolving. LibGuides has made changing content so easy. I find I can, either before or after a class, make a quick change depending on student questions or faculty needs.”

- Margaret Cohen, Head Librarian, Educational Resource Center, Boston College

“Now, we can control just about all aspects of the guides, and we can take full advantage of all the Web 2.0 stuff that’s out there.”

- Gary Atwood, Reference Librarian, Babson College
“We can only build emergent systems if we have radical trust. With an emergent system, we build something without setting in stone what it will be or trying to control all that it will be. We allow and encourage participants to shape and sculpt and be co-creators of the system.”

- Darlene Fichter, University of Saskatchewan Libraries.

“Library 2.0 and Radical Trust: A First Take,” Blog on the Side, April 6, 2006

...for librarians, too!
Librarians Unleashed: Library 2.0 & Radical Trust

Examples of librarians experimenting and exploring the possibilities offered by LibGuides

http://libguides.bc.edu/unleashed

- Images
- RSS Feeds
- User Polls & Comments
- Tag Clouds
- Scripted Applications
- Beyond Research Guides
Collaboration: Learning & Working Together
Inside...

Add Pages to Guides created by Other Users

Contributing pages to other librarians’ guides

Using each other’s boxes as templates

BC LibGuides
Tip and discussion for LibGuides authors at Boston College.

Web Link Boxes in LibGuides

Many of the guides that we converted from the old versions have text boxes with lists of links and descriptions under them. This was the easiest way to convert the old guides, cutting and pasting the content into text boxes in LibGuides. But LibGuides offers other, better ways of displaying Web links in a box.

There are actually two kinds of Web Link boxes you can use: Simple Web Links and Web Links with More Information.

Sharing ideas and inspirations

LibGuides Librarians

Electronic Resources & Libraries 2008
Collaboration: Learning & Working Together

Inside...

“Our government documents librarian or visual resources librarian can make a tab on one of my class guides, and it immediately (by their separate profile info) makes them known as the expert for that piece of the content.”

- Tiffany Hebb, Coordinator of Instruction, DePauw University Libraries

“I enjoy seeing how the different disciplines use the LibGuides. I thought we really learned a lot from viewing each other’s.”

- Margaret Cohen, Head Librarian, Educational Resource Center, Boston College
Collaboration: Learning & Working Together
...and outside

- **Searching and browsing** LibGuides at other institutions
- Reading and participating in the LibGuides Forum
- Helping to shape the product
Moving Forward: Next Steps & Ongoing Issues

With freedom comes responsibility

• Ideas and Innovation
  • Making guides more interactive
  • Taking advantage of 2.0 features
• Balancing creativity and standardization
• Managing the Workload
  • Easy (and fun) but still new and different work
Links & Contact Info

LibGuides @ BC – http://libguides.bc.edu
About LibGuides @ BC – http://libguides.bc.edu/aboutlibguides
Other LibGuides Library Sites - http://demo.libguides.com/selectsite.php
Examples: Librarians Unleashed – http://libguides.bc.edu/unleashed
LibGuides Community Site – http://community.libguides.com

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QUESTIONS?