BI’s via LibGuides:
All your eggs in one basket

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Objectives

• Demonstrate how subject guides enhance the instruction sessions
• Describe how guides employ economies of scale
• Present a user friendly guide that is navigable for new users
• Show complex and sophisticated content for advanced users
The library user needs a space to find assistance
Subject guides and class pages enhance the one-shot instruction session

- Guides relate to assignment requirements
- Guides are interactive: citation assistance, links to tutorials and workshops
- Instruction on demand meeting students at their location
- Online guides, prior to the current practice of guides, were static versions of paper guides (Gonzalez & Westbrock, 2010)
The one-shot instruction session

• For research sources, students want an online one-stop shop at time of need (Wahl, Avery, and Henry, 2013)
Guides employ economies of scale by maintaining content on one site instead of multiple locations

- Economies of scale: As the use of guides increases, the cost decreases
- A variety of online help points are combined into one central page
- Costs: Software, training, creating, maintaining
- Increase number of guides + increase of users = cost benefit to institution (Liu, 2012)
LIS EOPe class page: A user-friendly instruction tool

Source: http://guides.library.unt.edu/liseop?hs=a
Statistics for the LIS EOPe LibGuide

- The LIS End of Program Examination is given in February, June, and September
- Highest LibGuide usage is during the months of the exam
Other user-friendly elements of LIS EOPe class page

- LibGuides can be printed
- Three clicks from UNT homepage:
  - Class page
  - Pull-down menu
  - LIS End of Program Examination class page
- Easy to update, currency issues resolved
- Reusable boxes and pages
Create sophisticated content for advanced users

- Embed media and widgets
- Add book covers and catalog records
- Upload podcasts
- Add images
The virtual user connects to virtual assistance
Interior of digital bookmobile
Guide weaknesses

- The number of clicks to find guides
- Guides require maintenance
- Internet connection

Source: Delgado and May, 2010.
Conclusion

• Guides reinforce library instruction, the content is delivered to the user

• Easy to navigate for new users, sophisticated tools for experienced users

• Librarians can update content in one location

• Users have one source for their research needs
References


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