A Collections and Reference Librarian Partnership in the Planning of a Health Sciences Campus Researchers Information Portal

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Objectives

This poster describes the planning process for a centralized information website important to researchers on a health sciences campus. Through collaboration, the reference and collections librarians hope to provide a needed educational service and ensure that informational needs are met by including the most appropriate and popular resources from the library collections.

Methods

1. Identify a need
   - Researchers do not have a centralized web location for accessing information important to their entire research and publishing process
   - Information is scattered throughout University websites or non-existent
   - Librarians do not have a comprehensive resource to point researchers toward their needs

2. Ask for collaboration with collections librarian
   - Expertise in user-centered design and resource usage statistics

3. Start creating a Portal
   - Platform considerations
     - Usability
     - Multi-platform viewing
     - Long-term sustainability
     - Library investment
   - Portal Organization
     - People
     - Scope and coverage
     - "Ready Reference" style
   - Designing Example of Information "Node"
     - Information based on Scientific Research Data Management course
     - LibGuides Limitations & Challenges
     - Content presentation on mobile vs. desktop vs. iPad
     - How to present the information within the LibGuide?

Results

Originally, there was going to be a responsive HTML/CSS navigation overlay to content primarily hosted on the LibGuides platform; but issues such as consistency of look and feel, library content platform preferences, workflow, and long-term curation were discussed and it was concluded that navigation and content should all be hosted on LibGuides. LibGuides’ mobile display functionality then drove discussion about optimal content layout and presentation. Issues with identification and integration of outside content are still being explored.

Next Steps

- Content
- Usability testing and feedback
- Publicity
- Statistics on individual topic and resource popularity
- Embed portal into Course Management Software