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Library DIY: Its Impact, Accessibility & Next Steps

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The nice thing about standards is that you have so many to choose from.

Computer Scientist Andrew S. Tanenbaum, 1988
Library DIY has been released!  by Meredith Farkas

This is just a quick note to say that Library DIY (which I wrote about in a previous post) has been released! I am so very proud of this project.
I was a college student who never asked a librarian for help, so I often think about students who, for various reasons, don't feel comfortable seeking help from a librarian. Librarians have tried to find ways to make the wisdom of librarians available in unmediated forms, but the learning objects that most libraries create are focused more on general instruction than answering specific research questions. I wanted to create an online tool that replicated a reference interaction without any mediation.

Meredith Farkas
1/30/2018
D - Amy Hofer
I - Lisa Molinelli
Y - Meredith Farkas
! - Kimberly Willson
ACRL Instruction Section Innovation Award 2014
Top 10 Academic Library Websites 2014

3) Portland State University

- This library is all about teaching users how to become better researchers: I love their interactive and modular DIY Library teaching tool. The site is also packed with tutorials, how to’s, and workshops.
- I also like the ease of course reserves searching, and prominence of course information.

PSU’s Library DIY interactive tutorial
San Jose State University [http://library.sjsu.edu/start-your-research](http://library.sjsu.edu/start-your-research)

Oregon State University [http://diy.library.oregonstate.edu/](http://diy.library.oregonstate.edu/)

Whitworth University [http://libguides.whitworth.edu/howdoi](http://libguides.whitworth.edu/howdoi)

University of Ipswich (UK) [https://my.ucs.ac.uk/Library/Centres/Ipswich/Find-your-question.aspx](https://my.ucs.ac.uk/Library/Centres/Ipswich/Find-your-question.aspx)

Top DIY pages by unique pageviews, 2017

What type of sources do you need? - 676
Finding peer reviewed article - 554
Discover a focused topic - 475
Do you know what type of source it is? - 382

Retrieved from Google Analytics Jan 1, 2017 - Dec 31, 2017
Users by device

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Device</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Desktop</td>
<td>4,759</td>
<td>88.82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile</td>
<td>474</td>
<td>8.85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tablet</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>2.33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Retrieved from Google Analytics Jan 1, 2017 - Dec 31, 2017
Top 10 users by country

United States - 4,391
Canada - 110
Australia - 97
India - 84
Germany - 49
South Korea - 33
Singapore - 26
Philippines - 24
Thailand - 19

Retrieved from Google Analytics Jan 1, 2017 - Dec 31, 2017
Updating Library DIY

Library DIY has been updated regularly since its launch September 2013. As we launched the new Primo in August 2016, additional changes were needed to reflect diverse students, changing technology, and our need to comply with accessibility standards.

With Library DIY, librarians are not directly interacting with the user to provide context and more information. We have to think ahead!
Audience

Who is our audience?

- Researchers from any skill level who want to drive their own research
- Language should be clear and free of library or marketing jargon
- Assume the novice skill level from our audience
- What is the action the student wants to do?

ILL  Monograph  Boolean
Clarity

Standard language

Clear and jargon-free

Answer one question, and give one answer for one question
Hyperlinks

**Bold links** or **underlined links**

Concise language

Describe landing page of the link

Avoid language for a link such as **click here**

Do not use URLs as links

All hyperlinks should open in the same browser tab, so the user can use the back button
Clear English for non-native speakers

Use clear, declarative statements

Do not use contractions, slang or idioms, or abbreviations

Search for eBooks, not searching for eBooks or how to search for eBooks.

Example: Check to see if a journal is peer reviewed
Check your examples for culture and privilege

Keep examples clear and universal, and avoid examples that use idioms or assumptions of a specific culture, event, or group of people.

Do not spotlight specific populations from negative perspectives. Example: Latinos AND machismo AND family.

Use examples that are value driven and inspiring informed by critical theory. Examples: Discuss a famous woman or person of color, or ask a universal question, or empower students with leadership values.

Example: Find a book on the shelf
Portland State University Library Accessibility

Accessibility web page
Striving for Accessibility - WCAG 2.0 AA Compliance

Images and Video content must be accessible to all users.

Each image and video should have a written narrative describing the pedagogy, thus supporting different types of learners.

No new information should be given in an image or a video. View images and videos as a supplement to instruction.

Alt-text should not repeat the word “image of” or “screenshot of.” Alt-text should present the pedagogy in clear and concise language.
Screenshots

Teach one concept in screenshot

Alt text - concise, clear language

Include narrative text describing what is taught

Use squares and circles, not solely arrows

For non-essential or decorative images, use ““ (quote-space-quote). The screen reader will pass over it.
Screenshots

This decorative image does not provide pedagogy

Use quote-space-quote (" " ) in the Alt Text field

(image via Wikimedia Commons)
Videos

Video must be fully captioned. Test this yourself - How well do you understand the entire video without sound by just reading the closed captions?

Video must be described in the text of a sentence: ‘This video by such and such university shows how to search for peer reviewed journals....’

Example: [Discover a focused topic](#)
Formatting for Accessibility

- Breadcrumbs must match the title of the web page.
- Nest title headings H1 to H2 to H3
  - Structure headings logically, like an outline
  - Keep the title headings pattern across all pages

Example: [Determine whether a work is significant](#)
Free Accessibility Tools

WAVE - Web Accessibility Evaluation Tool

CHROMEVOX - free Screen Reader

NVDA (NonVisual Desktop Access) - free Screen Reader
Next Steps - Information Architecture

Minimize the secondary questions pages
Example: Types of Articles webpage

Usability with international students from the Portland State University Intensive English Language Program (IELP)

Usability with students with visual impairments

Check all URLs for HTTPS for security
Resources

508 Compliance Law: https://www.section508.gov/content/learn/laws-and-policies

WCAG 2.0 AA Compliance: https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/

Portland State University Accessibility: https://www.pdx.edu/accessibility/
Bibliography


Farkas, Meredith. (2013, September 19, ). Library DIY has been Released. Information wants to be free. Retrieved from https://meredith.wolfwater.com/wordpress/2013/09/19/library-diy-has-been-released/

Bibliography

Willson-St. Clair, Kimberly (Interviewer) & Buchanan, Sherry (Interviewee). (March 21, 2018). Google Analytics Interview with Content and Usability Strategist. Portland State University Library.

For more Information about Library DIY as OER

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