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Supporting OMPH Students and Professionals: The Case of the Research Guide

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Supporting OMPH Students and Professionals: The case of the research guide

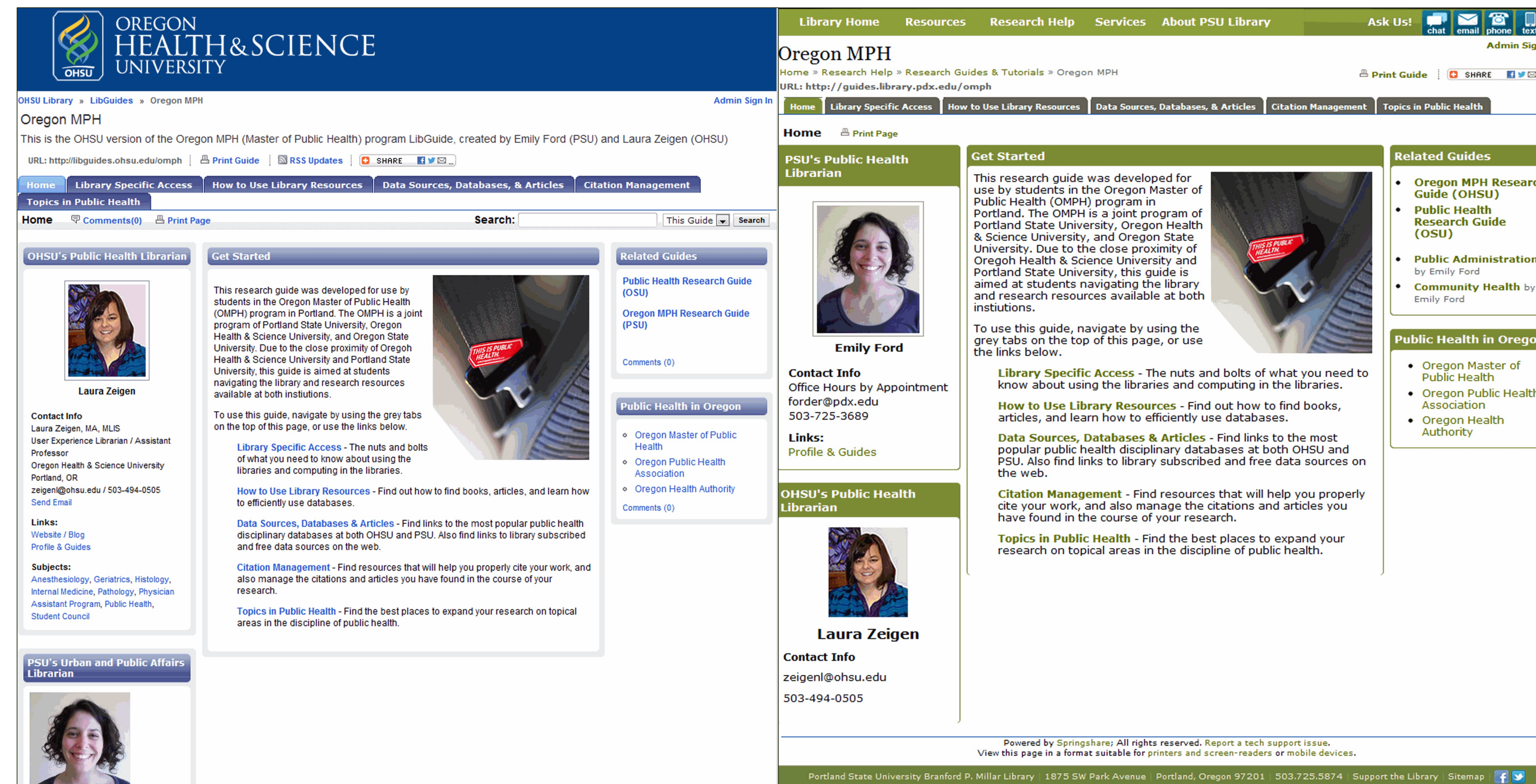
The OMPH Program

The Oregon MPH trains the future public health workforce in the state of Oregon. The program is an inter-institutional collaboration between OSU, PSU and OHSU. In July, 2014, OSU will separate from the program. Students are enrolled at a home institution, but may take classes at other institutions as a visitor. This visitor status affects students' access to research resources offered by the libraries.

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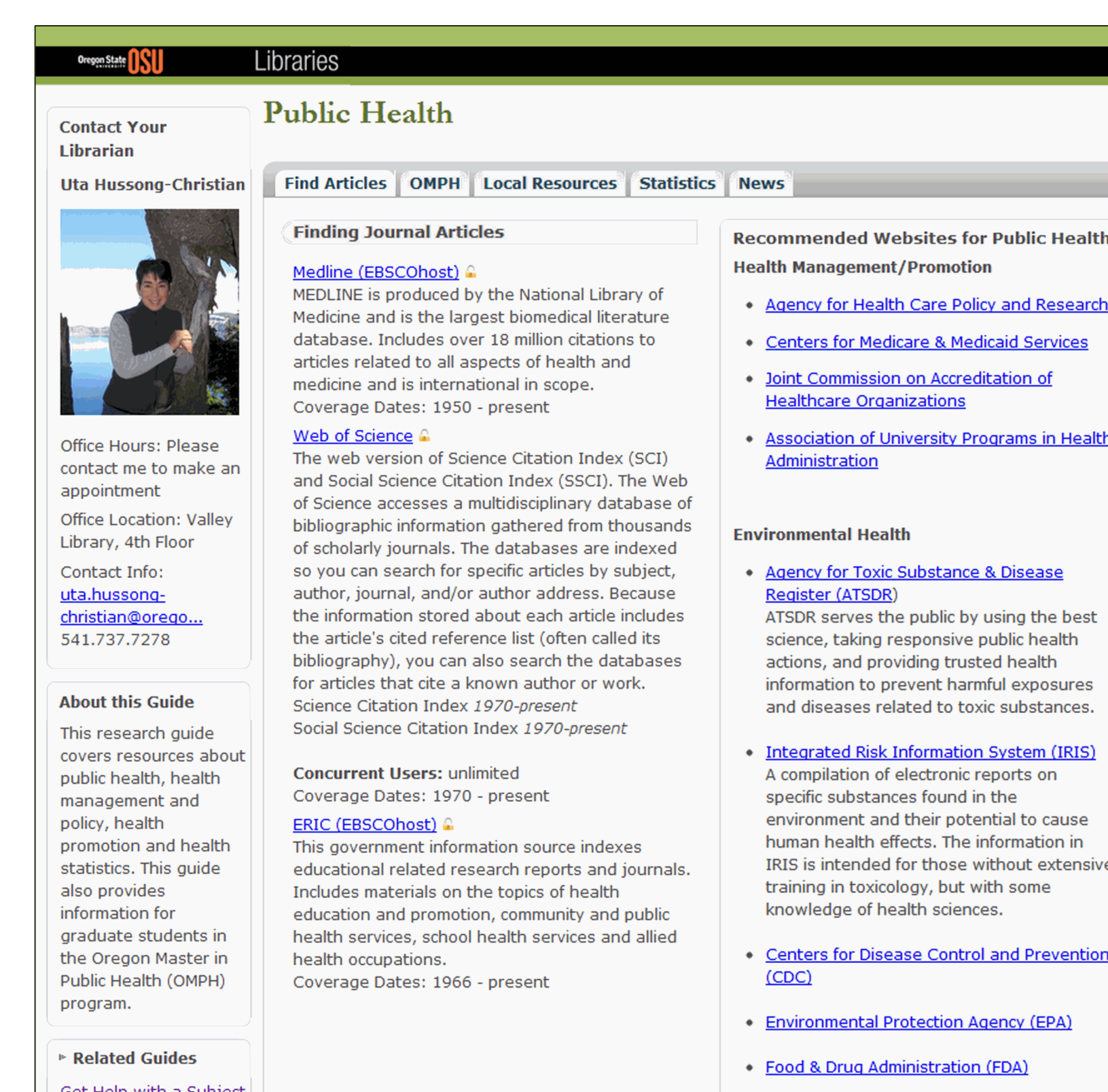
Creating the Shared Research Guides

The Guides



<http://libguides.ohsu.edu/omph>

<http://guides.library.pdx.edu/omph>



<http://ica.library.oregonstate.edu/subject-guide/446-Public-Health>

What should be included?

Librarians gathered feedback from faculty, students and the OMPH listserv community to inform what should be included in the guides.

How should it be organized?

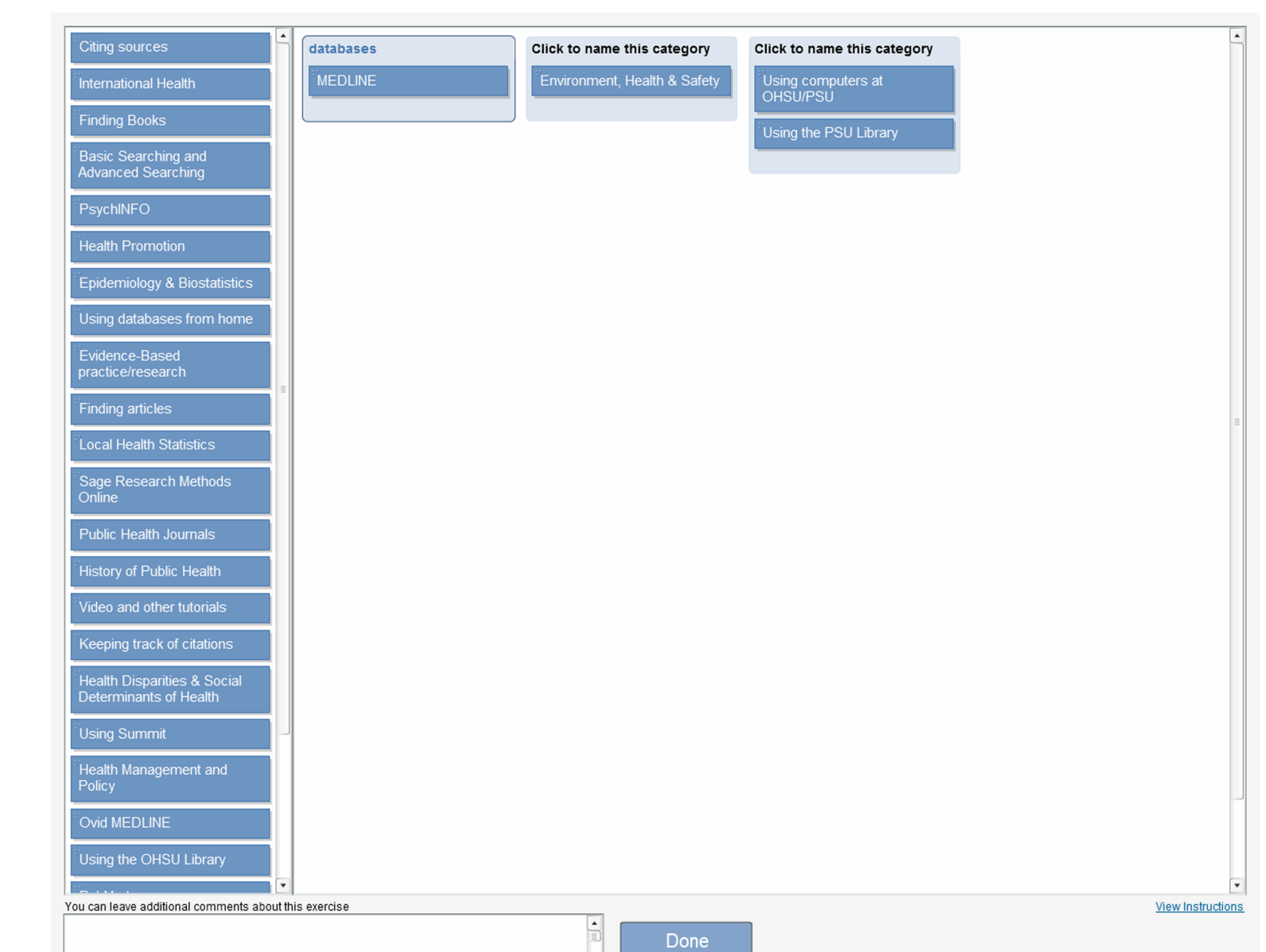
Librarians conducted a card sort study using OptimalSort.com, which showed them how students and faculty would organize the information.

How does the technology work?

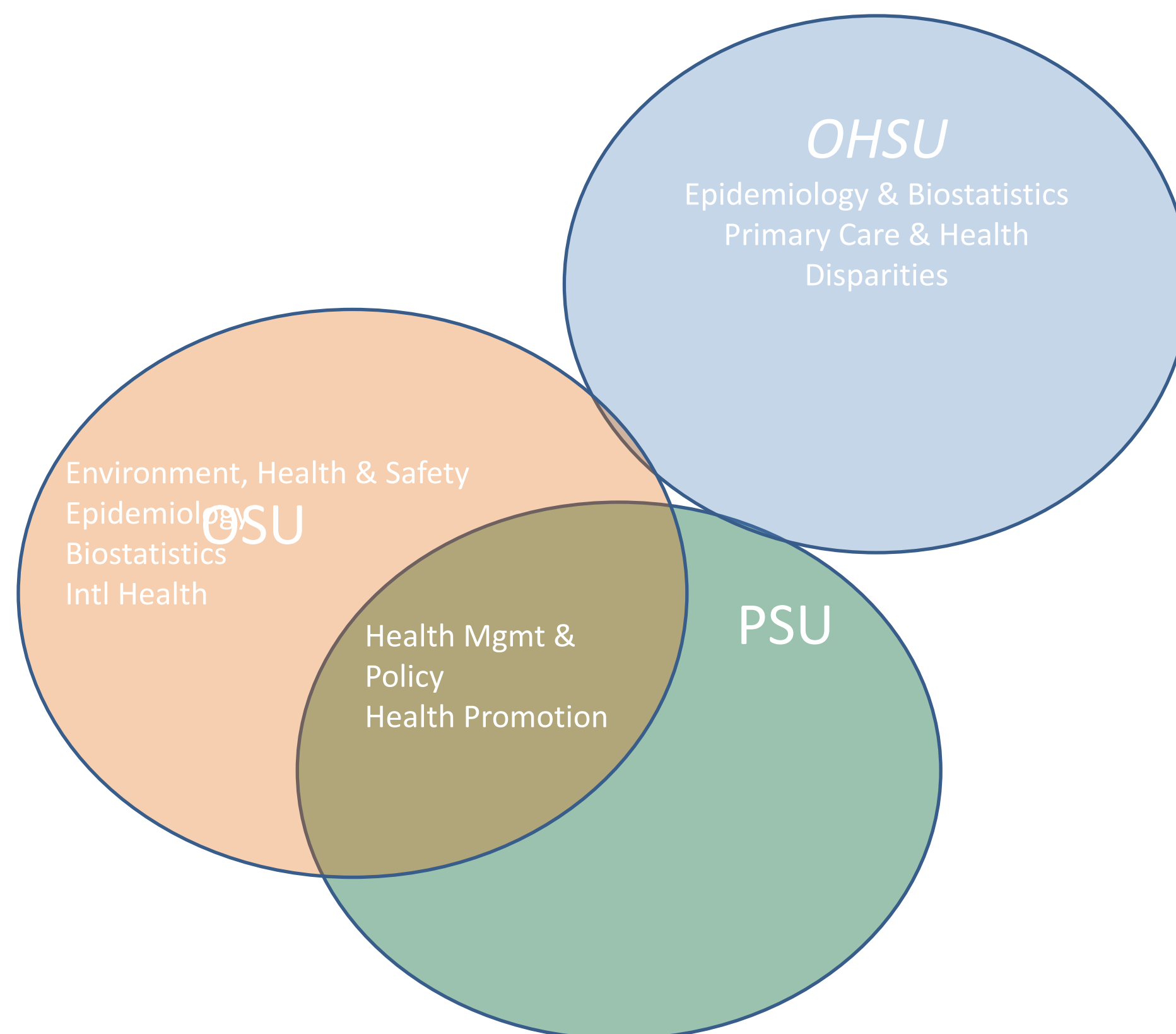
Both OHSU and PSU subscribe to SpringShare's LibGuides™ software, a package that enables librarians to easily make and share research guides. In this case, the PSU Librarian made the guide, and the OHSU Librarian copied and customized it for OHSU users. OSU uses a different technology.

OptimalSort Card Sort Activity

In a card sort, subjects arrange a list of concepts into logical organizational categories. The end result shows how users think about and organize this information.



OMPH Tracks of Study



The Problem

Imagine you are an Epi & Biostat student at OHSU studying traffic intersections with high incidences of bicycle and motor vehicle accidents. To do your research you need to access library databases and GIS resources, but they aren't available at OHSU. PSU, on the other hand, has them so you travel to the PSU library to use the databases.

Supporting Professionals

The research guides are not just for students. Practicing professionals can benefit from their instructional content. They include tutorials to help with search techniques, and also links to freely available data sources and resources. Any professional is also welcome to visit the libraries to use databases not freely available, and to ask for help from reference librarians.