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Mapping Standards to Content: Creating Research Guides using ACRL’s Psychology Information Literacy Standards

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Research Questions

Although libraries have embraced online research guides (typically SpringBlade’s LibGuides) as a mechanism for informing students of key resources across the disciplines, to what degree have they leveraged the full potential of these guides for delivering and supporting instruction? Guided by disciplinary information literacy standards, how could librarians create more instructionally robust guides which both promote and support the development of disciplinary research competencies?

Methods

The researchers surveyed the library websites of all Association of American Universities for online psychology research guides, excluding those designated as course guides. Many had no instructional content. Using Standard 2.2, which focuses on developing search strategies, the researchers conducted an extensive review of the instructional content on the remaining guides. *Help content related to resources and tools beyond brief guides. *Extensive review of developing search strategies, the researchers conducted an extensive review of the instructional content on the remaining guides. *Content may appear in a variety of formats (videos, links to tutorials, etc.)

OUTCOMES

2.2.a: Uses appropriate psychological terminology for searching databases, recognizing the different effects of using keywords, synonyms, and controlled vocabulary from the database.

2.2.b: Creates and uses effective search strategies in relevant databases using advanced search features, such as Boolean operators, truncation, and proximity searches.

2.2.c: Retrieves scholarly journals, books, and sources appropriate to the inquiry.

2.2.d: Seeks out knowledgeable individuals in the library and academic department as part of the search plan.

2.2.e: Assesses results to ascertain if there are information gaps and revises or expands search strategy as necessary.

GUIDE CONTENT

PsychINFO searching
- keywords
- subject headings
- limits
- truncation

Revising search strategies
Instructions for retrieving full text or requesting from interlibrary loan

General database or Google Scholar searching
- basic
- advanced

Subject librarian contact information

EXAMPLE OF A GUIDE INTEGRATING INSTRUCTIONAL CONTENT

The large majority of guides were organized by format (e.g. books, articles).

Guides that do have instructional content usually have:
- Instructional text on link resolver, catalog, and interlibrary loan
- General instructional text on Boolean and truncation
- Guide to call number browsing
- Linked APA or vendor handout on searching PsychINFO
- Link to APA YouTube channel or list of tutorials

Formats for Instructional Content

Capitalize on the multimedia potential of online guides to more effectively present content by featuring:
- Embedded videos
- Slide presentations
- Screenshots
- Workouts or handouts

TYPICAL GUIDE WITH LITTLE TO NO INSTRUCTIONAL CONTENT

Selected Readings


Psychology Information Literacy Standards


Selected Readings


