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Taubman Health Sciences Libguides

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LEF Presentation: Research Guides



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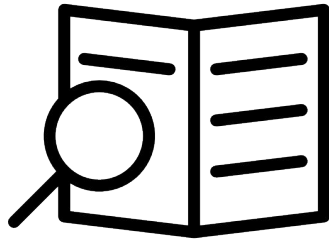
Problem Space

How can Taubman Health Sciences Library improve online research guides and make them more effective?

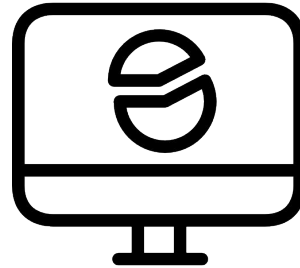
- What is a research guide?
- Who uses research guides?
- What does 'effective' mean?



Research: Phase 1

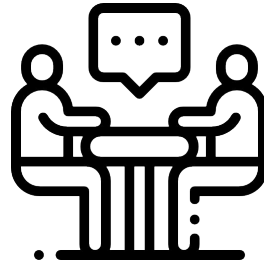


Literature
Review



Competitive
Analysis

Research: Phase 2



Contextual
Interviews



Key Findings

1

Research Guides are perceived as a dynamic, approachable starting point for research.

“Research is a very intimidating process ... [the guides] can be a starting point, in many ways.”

- Ask A Librarian Staffer

2

Research Guides are effective when they are: **easily scannable, have information prioritization, and strong structure.**

They are ineffective when information is **inconsistent, irrelevant, or overwhelming.**

"As long as any guide is descriptive enough, I can use it effectively."

- Ask A Librarian Staffer

3

LibGuide maintenance is a small part of informationists' job responsibilities and they can sometimes feel constrained by available software and time.

"I'd say it's flurries of activity, when I update the guides ... There are a couple [of things] with this new system that are clunky or I need to learn."

- Informationist



Recommendations

Feedback

Conduct user group needs assessment and incorporate feedback into design decisions.

Build

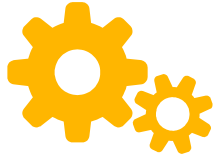
Build and strengthen relationships with different end-user groups.

Network

Advertise LibGuides by leveraging user groups' networks.

Examples:

- Run instructional sessions in existing research classes
- Incorporate LibGuides into Canvas course site navigation
- Build in regular assessment/feedback networks for user needs



Takeaways

Special thanks to the Library Engagement Fellows program, which proved to be an enriching opportunity to hone our research skills.

If you would like to receive details regarding our studies, you can email us at stafshar@umich.edu or hazita@umich.edu.