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Let the Right Ones In: Supporting Patrons as Content Creators with LibGuides and LibGuides CMS

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Abstract

LibGuides aren’t just for librarians anymore. With flexible access and permission features, LibGuides and LibGuides CMS each offer a flexible platform for hosting and supporting patron-created content. This poster highlights how, with a few simple configurations, librarians at a mid-sized university in the southeast opened up the LibGuides CMS platform to host student-developed projects and portfolios. Employing similar techniques, libraries can host a wide range of patron content, including blogs, group and event sites, and more. Learn how to extend editorial permissions to patrons while protecting your own guides and assets, as well as how to control access to patron-created content. This poster compares access and permission features available in LibGuides and LibGuides CMS. Also, privacy and policy considerations are addressed.

Best Practices

1. Engage the faculty early in reflection / brainstorming to determine suitable options for their course objectives.
2. Take privacy seriously. Understand privacy needs and ensure they are met.
3. Stress that Information has Value. Emphasize that all sources, including text, images, and video, need appropriate citation.
4. Empower AND instruct. Students will need help learning the system to take full advantage of it. Provide timely instruction and technical support as needed.
5. Be available and maintain communication. Faculty and students will need you along the way!
6. Think about how the platform can enhance assessment.

Hosting Student Portfolios

The library hosts student portfolios for the internus undergraduate liberal humanities program. Students develop their portfolios part the course of the program to include exploratory and self-reflected blog posts, and text analysis, mapping, data visualization, 3D modeling, and Algorithmic art projects. The portfolios are housed in a dedicated group in LibGuides CMS. The teaching faculty owns the guides, and the students are added as editors.

Engaging the Framework with LibGuides CMS

LibGuides CMS is used to host student created content for the course the form of class projects on select aspects of student's lives: Community, Career, Family, Race, Magic, and Entertainment.

Faculty-Student Content Collaboration

During spring 2017, the Library developed a system to collaborate and accompany an extended Research Thesis course. LibGuides and LibGuides CMS were employed to host the special collection of materials written by the students in the course. The graduate assistants were invited onto the platform as editors, and contributed to content and layout planning.

Three Use Cases, One Platform

In each of the 3 use cases, a Digital Humanities course, a First Year Writing course, and the Research Thesis course, we used LibGuides CMS as a platform for housing student created content. The platform provides the tools and flexibility to accommodate different needs in reach of the students, as exemplified in the following cases:

1. A Digital Humanities professor wanted to promote interdisciplinarity among their students. They created a guide with 3 sub-guides: each sub-guide was built by students of different disciplines, and students were encouraged to explore content from different perspectives.
2. In a First Year Writing course, students were encouraged to create a platform for students to share their work with others. Using LibGuides CMS, students were able to create a collaborative space that allowed them to share their writing, receive feedback, and receive constructive criticism from their peers.
3. In a Research Thesis course, students were required to create a platform for students to share their research. Using LibGuides CMS, students were able to create a collaborative space that allowed them to share their research, receive feedback, and receive constructive criticism from their peers.

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