LibGuides @ Unisa Library:
demonstrating a useful resource for subject specific and general research

Unisa Library Technology Week
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Presentation Outline

- Introduction
- Defining LibGuides
- Aim of the study
- Methodology
- Reaching out with LibGuides
- Unisa Library’s LibGuides
- Most popular LibGuides
- Unisa’s LibGuides: published, subject specific and general
- Law LibGuide
- Presentation of findings
  - General benefits
  - Survey responses
  - Impact on research
- Conclusion
Introduction

• Unisa as an Open Distance learning (ODL) Institution
• Changing technology landscape
• Library’s response
What are LibGuides?

“LibGuides is a content management tool allowing librarians to organize and present library collections to users in a customizable fashion using Web 2.0 applications” Bushhousen (2008).

LibGuides are also referred to as:
- research guides, or
- subject guides
LibGuides use the latest Web 2.0 technologies to allow librarians to create user-friendly, subject specific and general research guides that offer a one-stop-shop of information to assist clients with the teaching, learning and research processes. (Unisa LibGuides Project Plan, 2013)
To determine:

- Usefulness of LibGuides
- Impact on Research
Methodology

• Questionnaires

• Participants
  o College of Law staff (Academics & Researchers), and
  o College of Law students
Reaching out with LibGuides

LibGuides allow Librarians to connect with:

- Students
- Researchers & Academics
- Colleges/Faculties
- Departments
Most popular LibGuides

1. Law: 4591 views
2. How to Search: 3475 views
3. Research Skills: 3086 views
4. Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment: 2156 views
5. Human Resource Management: 2066 views
Most popular LibGuides

http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/
Unisa Library’s Law LibGuide

http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/law
Unisa’s LibGuides: published, subject specific and general

- Published: 72
- Subject specific: 58
- General: 14
Presentation of Findings

- General Benefits
- Survey Responses
- Impact on research
General Benefits of LibGuides

• User-centered and easy to navigate

• 24/7 online access to library resources and information

• One-stop access to research information, Web 2.0 tools

• Reuse content & save time
  - Share content, pages and guide templates across your institution

• Collaboration with Colleges: Reaching out to departments
Survey responses

- Links to other useful websites
- Easy access to subject specific databases and websites
- User friendly and easy to navigate
- The Law LibGuide provides useful tabs: useful legal websites, legal referencing, finding legal information and legal databases
Impact on Research

“LibGuides provide a gateway for library research which reduces student apprehension” (Miner 2010:40).

LibGuides further:

• Enhances student learning and research skills
• Increases research competencies and written analysis
• Improves searching skills
• Develops and conducts meaningful research projects (Little 2010: 431)
Conclusion

- Positive impact on research
- Gateway to both internal and external resources
- Popular with students, academics and researchers
- Overcome lack of research experience
- Research savvy community
It's QUESTION TIME!!
Thank you

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