Why Good LibGuide Design Matters & How You Can Get It Right

SpringyCamp | November 19, 2015
My LibGuide Philosophy

Pedagogical Tool

Work in Progress
Good Design Elicits

- Positive Emotions
- Critical Thinking
- Creativity
Write for the Web

Be concise

F-shaped reading pattern

Start with most important information
Reduce or Eliminate Jargon
**Examples**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ebrary ebooks</th>
<th>How to Use Different Types of Sources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Download an entire Ebook:</td>
<td>Use magazine and newspapers for:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Each ebook <strong>expires after 14 days</strong>.</td>
<td>• Current events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Limit of <strong>10 ebooks</strong> out at a time.</td>
<td>• Opinions and editorials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• No printing.</td>
<td>• General articles for non-specialists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Protected EPUB format [x]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Download selected pages:</td>
<td>Use scholarly journals for:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Limit of <strong>60 pages per day</strong>.</td>
<td>• Original research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Can print.</td>
<td>• In-depth information and analyses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Never expires.</td>
<td>Use books for:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• PDF format [x]</td>
<td>• More comprehensive exploration of a topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Use encyclopedias for:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Background and/or statistical information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Key terms and definitions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Yavapai College  
Northern Virginia Community College*
Eliminate “Nice to Know”

Each person has a finite amount of working memory, or what they can be actively thinking about while performing other tasks such as reading or learning.
Strategies to Aid Working Memory

- Simplify content and directions
- Use clear and specific language
- Incorporate chunking
Example

1. Open the Full Text Journal Finder (also found under “Research Tools” in the main Library web menu).
2. Search for the JOURNAL TITLE (not the article title).
3. Each database listed will cover different dates. Click on one that includes the date of your article.
4. Browse through the listed years and issues, or do a search by author or title within the publication.
Chunking is a learning theory that involves the breakdown of a concept into smaller units to facilitate learning.
Strategies to Aid Chunking

- Small content boxes
- Resize columns
- Color for emphasis
Recommended Article Databases

If you only want to find scholarly journal articles, be sure to check a box titled “refereed” or “scholarly” or “peer reviewed” journals.

- Academic Search Complete (EBSCO)
  Magazines and journals; limited newspapers (VIVA)
- Biological Science Collection (ProQuest)
  1982-present; over 750 full text journals

Why can’t I just use Google?

This video by Yavapai College Library in Prescott, Arizona demonstrates the different types of information found in Google versus library databases.

Click the icon located in the bottom right corner to watch the video in fullscreen mode.

Search Tips

Select the most important 2-3 ideas related to your topic. Put the word **AND** between each new word or idea, this tells the database to look for resources with **ALL** your terms.

* bear AND hibernation

Use quotation marks (" ") around phrases (two or more words), this tells the database to look for the words in a specific way.

*Ursus arctos* AND hibernation

Use the asterisk (*) to truncate a word, this tells the database to look for all words that have the same base. In the example below, search results would include hibernate, hibernates, hibernating, hibernation, etc.

*Ursus arctos*AND hibernat*
Limit Number of Suggested Resources

Which list is more appealing?

**Biology Databases**
- Biological Abstracts (Thomson Reuters)
- BioOne
- Journal of Visualized Experiments (JoVE)
- Web of Knowledge (Thomson Reuters)
- Annual Reviews
- AGRICOLA
- Environment Complete (EBSCO)
- Nature.com
- PLoS (Public Library of Science)
- Science Online
- Science Reference Center (EBSCO)
- Scirus
- Arabidopsis Information Resource

**Databases**
Find magazine, newspaper, and journal articles on a variety of environmental topics in these databases:
- Environment Complete (EBSCO)
- Environmental Science Collection (ProQuest)
- GreenFILE (EBSCO)
- ScienceDirect
Use Pictures and/or Visual Aids

- **Physics Today**
  Articles from 1975-1 year ago, published by American Institute of Physics.

- **Nature**
  Provides full-text, archived access to Nature Publishing Group journals, along with access to the current issues of several other NPG titles. (VIVA)

- **Scientific American**
  Articles from Scientific American, Scientific American Mind, and Scientific American Presents. (NVCC)

- **Science**
  Online access to the journal Science. (VIVA)
Use Pictures and/or Visual Aids

Narrow Your Topic

How to Narrow Your Topic
If your topic is too broad or vague, you will find too much information and will need to narrow the focus.

Example: "I'm thinking of doing a paper on technology."
You can write a multi-volume work on technology. How can this be turned into a more manageable topic?

Define the topic by asking these questions:
- When you think of this topic, what do you picture? The Internet, computer design software, automobiles, pre-historic tools, washing machines? All of these inventions are parts of the greater topic – technology.
- What do you know about technology? What don't you know?
- What aspects of your topic interest you: historical, sociological, psychological, mechanical, etc.?
- What time period do you want to cover?
- On what geographic region do you want to focus?
- What kind of information do you need:
  - a brief summary or a lengthy explanation?
  - periodical articles, books, essays, encyclopedia articles?
  - statistics?

Sample Topic Narrowing Chart:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General topic:</th>
<th>Technology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Facets of topic:</td>
<td>automobiles, cellular telephones, wireless technology, text messaging, social networking, GPS systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aspects:</td>
<td>legal; psychological; social</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time span:</td>
<td>1990s; current</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place:</td>
<td>United States; urban; rural; China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrowed Research Question:</td>
<td>Should cell phone use be banned with driving?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **General Topic**: Technology
- **Facets of Topic**: automobiles, cell phones, wireless technology, text messaging, social networking, GPS systems
- **Aspects of Topic**: legal (state and/or federal); social; psychological
- **Time Span**: 1990s; current
- **Place**: United States; urban; rural
- **Focused Research Question**: Should cell phone use be banned with driving?
MS Word - SmartArt

Insert SmartArt Graphic

Insert a SmartArt graphic to visually communicate information.

SmartArt graphics range from graphical lists and process diagrams to more complex graphics, such as Venn diagrams and organization charts.

Press F1 for more help.
Add the File if Using SmartArt
Add ALT Text

URL
http://igimages.s3.amazonaws.com/data/imagea

Alternative Text
Image of how to use different types of information sources; accessible file.
Tabbed Boxes Can Reduce Scrolling

Resources for Poster Design & Presentations


- Call Number: Online & Alexandria Circulating Q223 .C325x 2013
- ISBN: 9780123859693
- Publication Date: 2013

Designing Science Presentations guides researchers and graduate students of virtually any discipline in the creation of compelling science communication. Most scientists never receive formal training in the creation, delivery, and evaluation of such material, yet it is essential for publishing in high-quality journals, soliciting funding, attracting lab personnel, and advancing a career. This clear, readable volume fills that gap and provides visually intensive guidance at every step—from the construction of original figures to the presentation and delivery of those figures in papers, slideshows, posters, and websites. It provides pragmatic advice on the preparation and delivery of exceptional scientific presentations; demonstrates hundreds of visually striking presentation techniques, giving readers inspiration for creating their own; and is structured so that readers can easily find answers to particular questions. Clear heading for each section indicates its message, highlighted with graphic illustrations. Two summary paragraphs that complement the visual images and clearly discuss the main point. Numerous examples of high-quality figures, page layouts, slides, posters, and web pages to help stimulate readers' ideas for their own presentations. Numerous "before and after" examples to illustrate the contrast between poor and outstanding presentations.
Can you read this?

How about this time?

What about now?
Active Tab Color

BIO 101 Labs - Fall 2015 (AL): Articles

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Other Resources

- LibGuides Community
  http://libguides.com/community.php

- Using LibGuides to Enhance Library Services
  *A new version is in the works!*

- Design for How People Learn

- e-Learning and the Science of Instruction: Proven Guidelines for Consumers and Designers of Multimedia Learning

- The Non-Designer’s Design Book