Abstract
Librarians in the Wilson Library at University of La Verne researched best practices for Springhare’s Library Guides (LibGuides) in order to improve equity, accessibility, inclusion, and mobile functionality. They found that updating the layout of guides to side navigation, adjusting box order, and creating clear and concise content, made the guides more easily viewable and accessible on a variety of platforms. The librarians followed the accessibility guidelines from the W3C Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) in order to make their guides accessible and inclusive for all users. They also conducted a literature review to learn about LibGuides best practices at other institutions and used LibGuides statistics, as well as usability testing, to learn how users accessed and navigated through guides at their own institutions.

Mobile Functionality
Library Guides (LibGuides) are utilized by many students at the University of La Verne. Librarians promote their use during instruction and one-on-one research appointments, and faculty encourage students to use them as well. As such, it is important to make them accessible on a variety of platforms. Mobile functionality is especially important as many of our students, over 20%, access guides using mobile devices. To make for the best experience possible, we followed best practices for LibGuide mobile functionality. The layout of the guides is important in order for content to display correctly in a mobile environment. First, the navigation pane should be set to the left-hand column (side navigation) instead of the top of the page. The side navigation displays as a stacked column whereas the top navigation is jumbled and harder to read. The order of the information boxes within should also be considered. Content is displayed left to right and top to bottom in the mobile environment. The most important information should be placed in the uppermost boxes as those will display first on a mobile device. It’s important to also consider the users of these guides. Make sure to use clear, concise language and avoid using jargon that may confuse your users. Make sure language is appropriate and that it’s not offensive in any way. Content within the guides should also be taken into consideration. When linking websites, create the
link using the link option instead of hyperlinking text. This enables guide editors to use
the link checker function in LibGuides to see if any links are broken. Adding tables to
guides should also be considered. Tables that are copied and pasted into the guides do
not display correctly. When resized for the mobile environment, they bleed outside of
the boxes. To avoid this, create tables within LibGuides or add an image. This way they
will resize when the content is displayed in a mobile environment.

Accessibility
Accessibility practices for LibGuides include, but are not limited to, alternative text,
captions, multiple formats, keyboard functionality, the content type, compatibility, and
visual display options such as polls and galleries. Alternative text provides text
description for images, assisting those with screen readers and individuals with low
bandwidth. Captions are used for those who are deaf, hard of hearing, prefer to process
material with text and sound, and those who want to read without sound. Multiple
formats allow users multiple ways to engage with content, be it a downloadable pdf, or
captioning. In addition these multiple formats can be avenues of accessibility, such as
an accessible pdf. Keyboard functionality allows engagement with sites through the
keyboard and not with a mouse and content type is a reminder to avoid material such as
flashing lights to those with neurological sensitivity. Display options such as polls and
galleries should be enabled with alternative text and display arrows to guide navigation
and compatibility is the continual maintenance and assistive markup to ensure
compatibility with all users that we want to reach.

Equity, Inclusivity, and Universal Design
Accessibility, equity, inclusion, and usability are interrelated design concerns. The
W3C Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) has a very clear discussion of these intersecting
concepts on their website. Inclusion means designing tools that everyone can
use. Librarians should avoid jargon, use concise language and apply the principles of
universal design. They should also consider adopting LibGuides best practices, as well
as learning more about their particular users. LibGuide data and usability testing are
useful tools for learning about student access and navigation of LibGuides.
Appendix 1

Poll Everywhere Online Poll
June 4, 2020

What Issues Do You Have With Your LibGuides
(Poll Everywhere)

Responses
Trying to accomplish a fresh look and feel while still having it be cohesive with the other Library pages
Information Overload
did i say too much info already? too much info!
Too much work with little pay back for it
Too wordy
Text-heavy and not visually appealing
They do a lot of different things and it's tough to do it all. There's a lot of back-end spaghetti making it hard to update and re-design.
Having students discover them and utilize them on their own. Instead they just give up/use Google
Too much content. Not user friendly
No consensus among staff re: how things should look/feel/be presented
making them findable
Not enough time to make them useful
What's most useful for students? What to prioritize?
hard to navigate
Under utilized
feel passive
they look old fashioned
ATI compliance
accessible
Making them more visually appealing
Lack of engagement

some of the stuff on them should just be on our website
Not obvious where to click to find info
complicated coding on the back end

Concern that what I create is not always ADA compliant
They are boring.
We don't have a clear mission/user in mind for our guides so there's too much information and it's organized for librarians, not users.
Difficulties with standards across
Too much info
Best Practices for LibGuide Design

**Mobile Functionality**
- Side navigation
- Box order
- Consider users
- Linked content
- Creating tables

**Equity & Inclusion**
- Language use
- Cultural sensitivity
- Inclusivity

**Standardization**
- Side navigation
- Box order
- Consider users
- Linked content
- Creating tables

**Accessibility**
- Alternative text
- Captions
- Multiple Formats
- Keyboard functionality
- Content type
- Compatibility
- **Check your guides with WAVE:**
  [https://wave.webaim.org/](https://wave.webaim.org/)

- **Springshare Accessibility LibGuide:**
Additional Resources

Articles


Questions? Contact Us!

• Karen Beavers: kbeavers@laverne.edu
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CARL 2020
Virtual Conference
June 4-5, 2020
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We expect all participants in CARL-related spaces, including guests and vendors, to behave in ways that support the dignity and well-being of everyone present. This includes formal and informal CARL-related spaces, including digital communication, social media, and in-person interactions. We acknowledge that mistakes will be made, but we also expect all participants in CARL-related spaces to be humble, be comfortable with being uncomfortable, acknowledge the mistake, and commit to continuous learning and improvement.

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Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory and homelands of the Luiseño/Payómkawichum people.

We are guests on this land and have committed ourselves to listening to and supporting indigenous people.
Sponsors

EBSCO

ubiquity press
open scholarship

Adam Matthew
Primary sources for teaching and research

Backstage Library Works

emerald Publishing

IEEE Xplore Digital Library

SPRINGER NATURE

World Scientific
Connecting Great Minds
LibGuides for Equity and Inclusion
Today’s Discussion

- Why redesign?
- Best Practices
- Moving Forward
- Additional Materials
• **Phone:** Text NORMADURIAN239 to 37607 to join

• **On a computer:**
  Pollev.com/normadurian239
Why did we redesign?

- Mobile
- Accessibility
- Aesthetics
- Standardization/Consistency
Our Conclusion: Side Navigation

- Side navigation tabs are more mobile friendly
- Cleaner, more modern look
- More visible than top tabs
Best Practices

- Mobile Functionality
- Accessibility
- Equity & Inclusivity
Mobile Functionality

- Side navigation
- Box order
- Consider users
- Linked content
- Creating tables
Side Navigation

Wikipedia-a-Thon: Gaypril Edition

- Home
- LGBTQ+ Pages
- Create an Account
- Editing a Page
- Library Resources

Need More Information About This Event?
If you would like more information about this event and/or how to participate, contact the Wilson Library:
- Main Desk: 909-448-4301
- Email: ask@laverne.libanswers.com
- Chat: library.laverne.edu
- Text a Librarian: 909-638-1882

Welcome!
Welcome to our Wikipedia-a-Thon: Gaypril

Top Navigation

Marriage & Family Therapy: Articles

- Home
- Books & Media
- Articles
- Literature Review
- Research Tools
- Dissertations & Theses
- Citation Help
- RefWorks

Recommended Databases
These resources are recommended for your research in the area of Marriage & Family Therapy.
- PsycINFO
- PsycARTICLES
- Taylor & Francis Online
Guide in a Mobile Environment
Accessibility

- Alternative text
- Captions
- Multiple formats
- Keyboard functionality
- Content type
- Compatibility
- Polls/Galleries in LibGuides
Equity, Inclusivity, Universal Design

- Language use
- Cultural Sensitivity
- Inclusivity
- Avoid Jargon
- Use concise language
- Universal design
Let’s explore a LibGuide Together!
What can we change?

- Titles are too long
- Text is too small and does not describe the guide
- Image is not right size and no alt text
What can we change?

- No information about the journals is included.
- Titles use confusing jargon (Ex. Boolean).
### What can we change?

Table was pasted
Moving Forward

- Continue to monitor, edit, and update our guides
- Keep up with best practices
- Gather student feedback
Additional Materials

- Handout with best practices and contact info
- [Best Practices LibGuide](#)
- [Libguide Design Info Sharing Google Doc](#)