LibGuides: A New Platform for Customized Resource Delivery

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Where we were

Eight years ago, librarians pulled together vetted Internet resources covering over 50 topics. With the growth of the Internet in general, and new search tools in particular, a discussion began about the best format to reorganize these useful resources with the goal of improving usage and visibility.

A second year NLM Associate reviewed the categories and offered suggestions for reducing the total number of categories. At the same time, the library website was redesigned. In conjunction with the re-design, some categories were placed elsewhere on the site. Later that year, the Himmelfarb Library licensed the Springshare Libguides (Web 2.0 for Library 2.0), a system already in use at the main campus library.

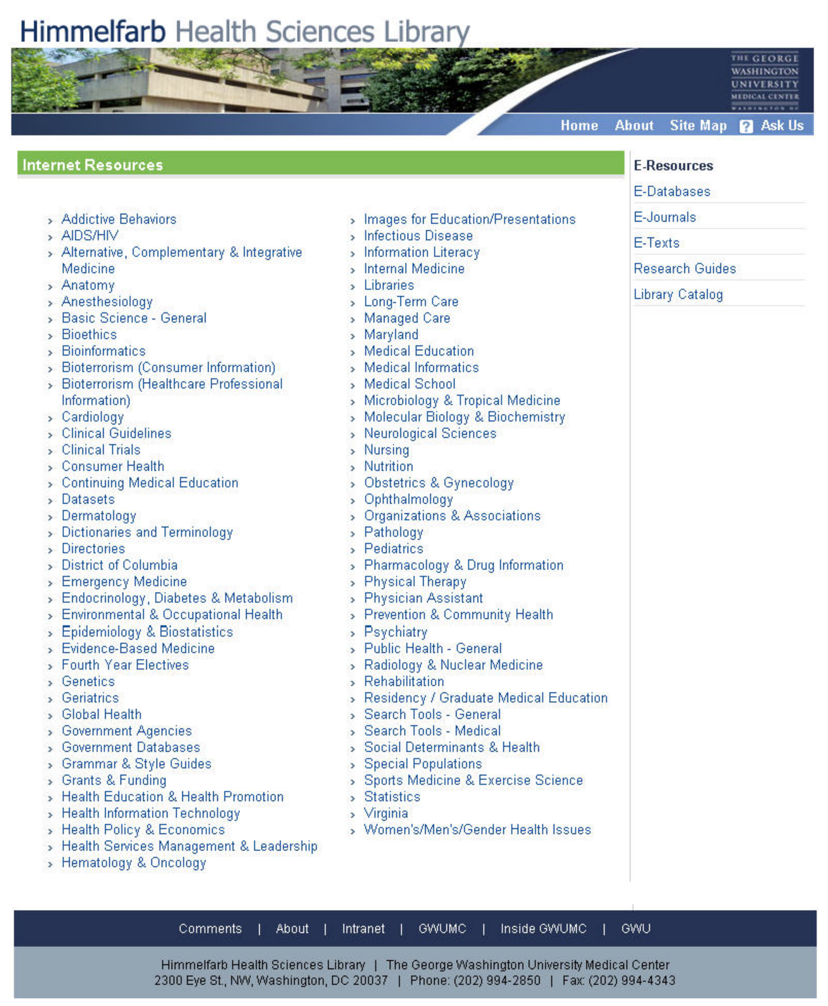
Where we are

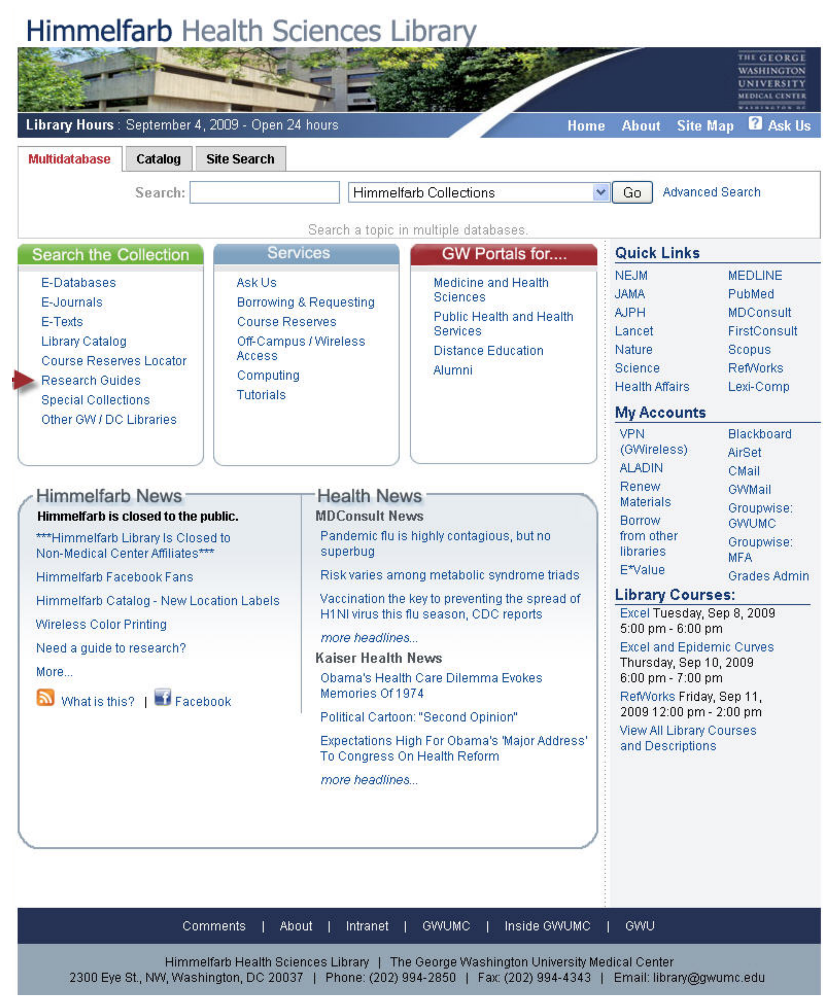
Having gained exposure and familiarity from the main campus work on the LibGuides platform, the reference department met to develop a plan. As a consequence of the librarians' desire to improve outreach to the School of Public Health and Health Sciences (SPHHS), the reference librarians decided to create the first set of libguides for the 7 SPHHS departments.

The librarians were shown the basics of using LibGuides and given time to build their departmental guide. The team reconvened to share their ideas and give each other feedback. LibGuide developers appreciated the Web 2.0 features the system utilized, and incorporated RSS feeds, widgets and multimedia into various LibGuides. This meeting resulted in a list of best practices that were incorporated into every LibGuide. Some examples are :

1. Standards Names for Tabs
2. Links from each guide to the others
3. Set formats to display links to eBooks and link to eJournals
4. Use Delicious to create RSS feeds for vetted Internet resources

After revising the guides, faculty reviewed and approved the content. With faculty input, the initial set of guides were completed for the Fall 2009 semester and shown at new student orientations. Patrons access the guides from a link titled Research Guides that replaced the Internet Resources link. The LibGuides entry page design was deliberately chosen to provide the easiest access.

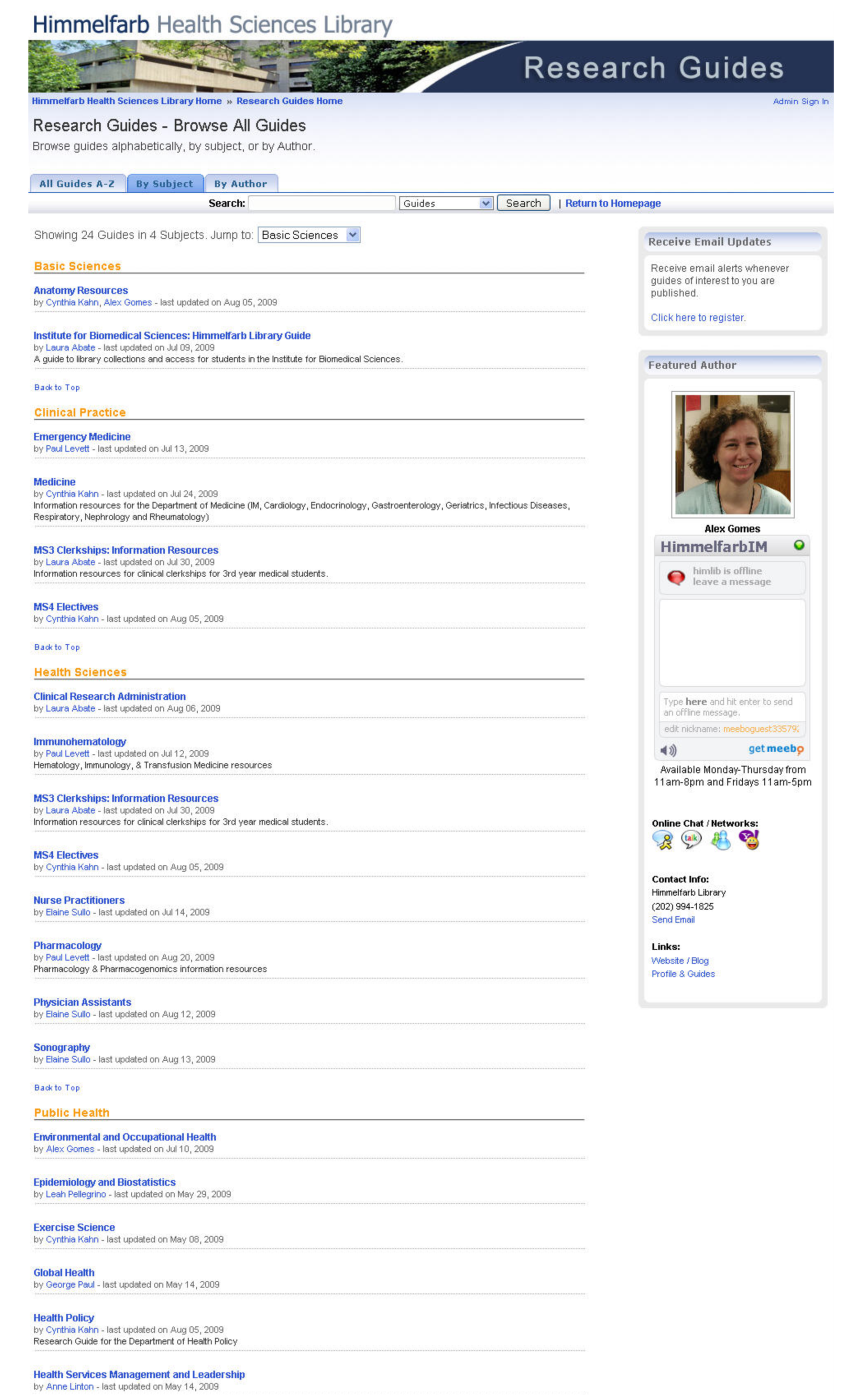

Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library
Internet Resources
E-Resources


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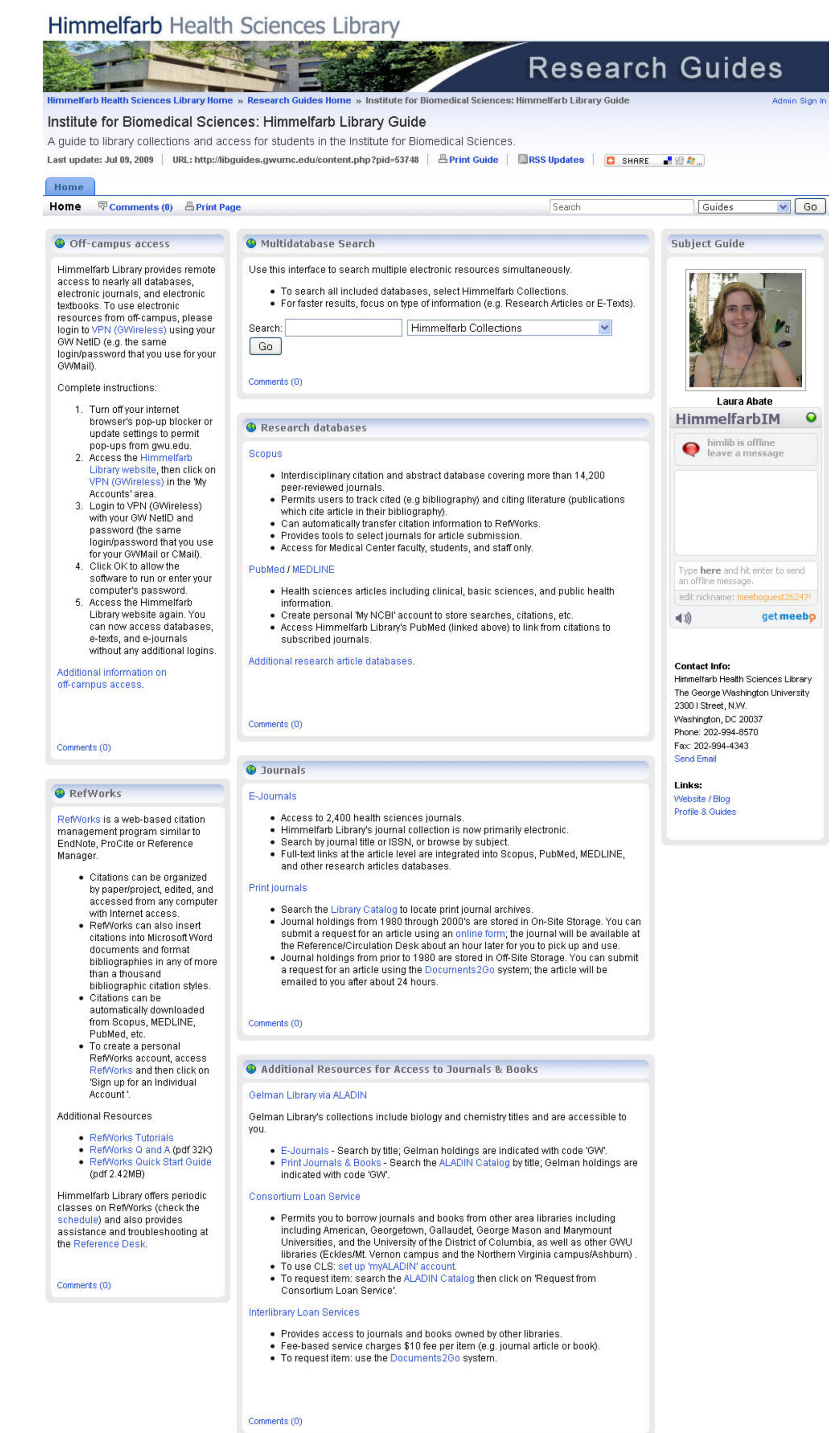
Where we are going

An unexpected benefit of the system is maintaining unpublished guides to share information amongst the staff. A "workbench" guide holds work in progress or items staff wish to share. For example, widgets created by the library's webmaster to search the library catalog or access the multi-database search can be easily added to any guide from the workbench. The "reference team" guide acts as a shared space for sharing tips gleaned from conferences attended by staff and a list of librarian competencies. Additionally, Springshare created a highly collaborative environment. It has been used to share information between libraries. The medical library was asked to provide a public health resources guide for the main campus library and further collaboration is anticipated.

- A benefit of the LibGuides system is selecting the status
 - "unpublished" or invisible
 - "published" or visible to everyone via search and homepage
 - "private" or visible only to people who know the URL


Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library
Research Guides
Research Guides - Browse All Guides


Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library
Research Guides
Health Services Management and Leadership


Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library
Research Guides
Institute for Biomedical Sciences: Himmelfarb Library Guide

The Problem Based Case Learning (PCL) course director shared a LibGuide created to support the PCL faculty.

> Tutors,
> Our wonderful library faculty have generated this website to assist you with PCL cases. This site has a multitude of resources grouped by learning objective category. This is for your purposes only, but can be shared with students after the case is done. Please let me know if you have any questions, and your feedback is greatly appreciated.
>
> Matthew Mintz, MD, FACP
> Associate Professor of Medicine
> Director, Primary Care Clerkship
> The George Washington University School of Medicine

Statistics

Number of Guides	38
Number of Pages	216
Number of Homepage Views	24539
Total Guide Views	5766

Most popular guides:

MS3 Clerkships: Information Resources	990 Hits
Physician Assistants	832 Hits
Environmental and Occupational Health	523 Hits
HIST 771: History of Epidemics Course Guide	441 Hits