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Creating Best Practice LibGuides to Facilitate Students' Learning

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Creating Best Practice LibGuides to Facilitate Students' Learning

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Introduction

Shiffman Medical library subscribes to many e-textbooks, Q-bank questions, study tools and drug databases to facilitate pharmacy students' learning activities and online board examination preparation. Because these resources are included in several packages, it is not easy to find them in searches. Thus it is important to make these resources discoverable and easily and quickly accessible.



Methods

Create User-Focused LibGuides/Timesavers

Content:

- Selected eBooks, study tools, Q-bank questions, or databases based on curriculum, faculty's input, usage stats & relevance to courses. Ensure the content is reliable and up-to-date.
- Created tutorials on literature & drug database searching
- Selected tools that support students' research activities.

Organization:

- Listed the selected resources in order of relevance or high usage.
- Grouped tools of drug databases by their functions to ensure easy to find & quick to access.
- Kept key resources short & a comprehensive list in another page.

Design:

- Selected side-navigation layout based on the students' usability study.
- Simple, concise, and consistent
- Mobile optimized & friendly URL assigned

Maintenance:

- Review curriculum annually & update the guides every six months.

Promote the Guides in collaboration with pharmacy educators

- Advocated the guides as students' jumpstart page for their study
- Sent students board exam questions based on pharmacy education competencies and their interest.

Shiffman - Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences Timesaver (Guide)

Shiffman - Drug Information Timesaver/Guide

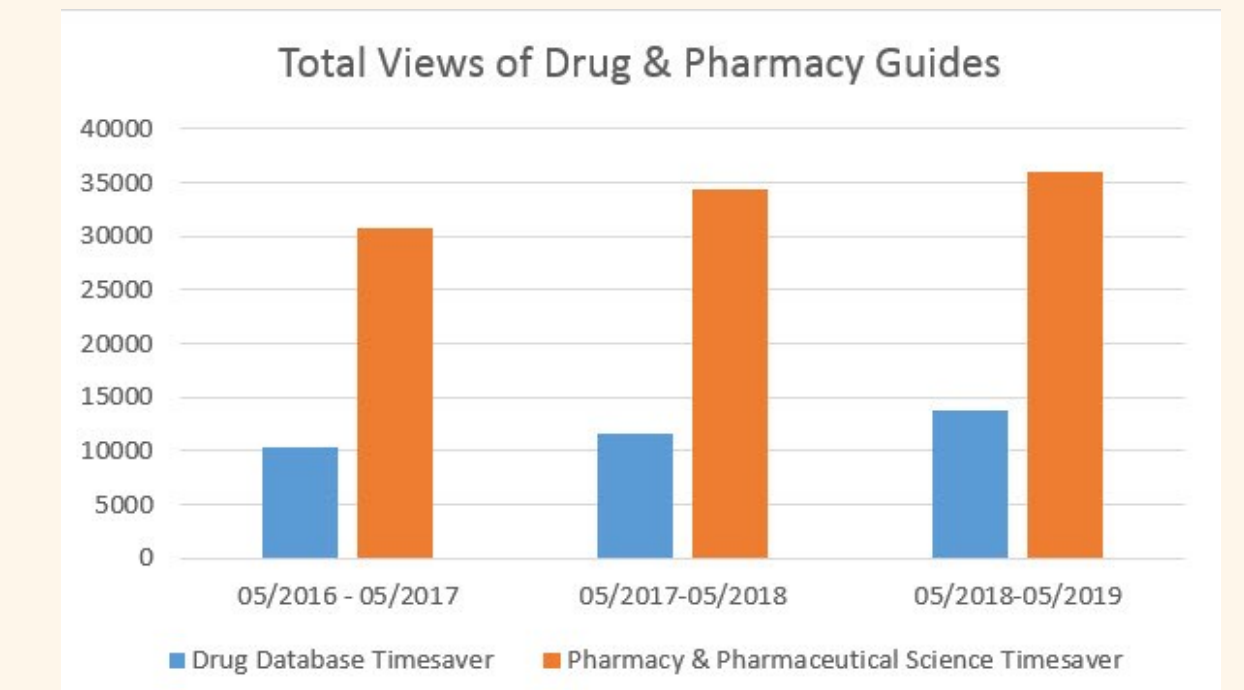
Shiffman - Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences Timesaver (Guide)

Additional Resources on Best Practices for LibGuides Design

- LibGuides Design: Best Practices and Guidelines <https://libguides.libraries.wsu.edu/bestpractices>
- Best Practice Guidelines Checklist http://guides.library.illinois.edu/libguides_intro/guide_checklist
- Best Practices for Building Guides & Accessibility Tips <https://training.springshare.com/libguides/best-practices-accessibility>

Results

The two LibGuides were accessed by pharmacy students heavily and consistently in three years. Each year the total views increased a little. The access to the NAPLEX Online Question Bank increased four times according to the usage stats of the vendor. Students expressed their appreciation for the two LibGuides and NAPLEX Preparation page created for them and for delivering them Q-bank questions at the point of need.



Discussion

Pharmacy students today need quick access to online textbooks for their course assignments and to a variety of health and drug information for their team-based class activities and research projects, meantime they are also bombarded with overwhelming online resources.

Using LibGuides platform, librarians can effectively and efficiently create tailored webpages with selected key resources and study tools based on curriculum and course requirements. Students can use appropriate tools identified in a bunch of resources to find answers to clinical scenario questions and report their findings at the class. The two LibGuides developed for pharmacy students not only help promote and highlight library resources but also encourage students' self-directed learning of drug and literature database searching at the point of need through short videos and tutorials. The pharmacy students' learning outcomes have improved greatly in recent years according to their survey and board examination scores. More than 90% students passed board examination and quite some of them got scores much higher than national average. The LibGuides development and collaboration among the librarian and pharmacy educators to ensure fast access to the core resources and systematic delivery of materials to students at the point of need might play a role in the student success.

The librarian will consistently improve LibGuides through conducting a student survey on LibGuides, a usability test and updating pages based on LibGuides statistics and Google Analytics.