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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-band 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.

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-band 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.

Additional Resources on Best Practices for LibGuides Design

- Best Practice Guidelines Checklist http://guides.library.illinois.edu/libguides_intro/guide_checklist

Analytics.

LibGuides - best practices - accessibility - practices - accessibility - practices - accessibility - practices - accessibility - practices - accessibility - practices - accessibility - practices - accessibility - practices - accessibility - practices - accessibility - practices - accessibility - pr