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**LibGuides and the Research Group**  
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Many libraries have adopted the LibGuide portal format from Springshare to serve both as a tool for general reference guides across disciplines and for targeted resource lists for classes.

A research faculty member communicated that he and his team were having trouble navigating through the library’s resources to access relevant articles; they were not being served by a disciplinary or course-specific research guide. To alleviate some of the navigation challenges, a librarian developed a guide for the team that specifically focused on the resources that would best serve their research. The process of creating a research team-specific guide provided new opportunities to use an already familiar technology to support a different audience and provide passive library outreach.

Because this was the first version of a team-focused research guide, more familiar tools were included:

 **Proxied databases links**. These links facilitated easy access on campus or on the go.

 **RSS of a PubMed search**. Developed in collaboration with the team, a search feed provides for planned serendipitous discovery as the projected proceeded.

 **Librarian contact information**. The standard profile box was rejected for a simpler box with only email and phone number.

 **Direct link to interlibrary loan**. Due to the university having multiple campuses, patrons have to select interlibrary loan from the home page and then identify their campus before they can request materials. In keeping with Ranganathan’s Fourth Law, a direct link to the campus appropriate log in page was included.

 **Table of contents for team-identified journals.** By pulling in the RSS feeds of the most recent table of contents, team members could quickly scan and go directly to proxied full text.

 **Citation Matcher.** A direct link to this fill-in-the-blank form allows a researcher to start with what they have and then move quickly to full text or an article request.

Once development of the LibGuide was complete, it was launched privately so that it was only available to the team. A member of the research team, in this case the initial faculty contact, was given editing permissions to the research guide.

Now that the guide has been successfully launched, library staff considered opportunities to expand. Other potential features that have been identified for inclusion are:

 **Data Repositories and Management**. This feature would help researchers find a place to store data to meet grant funding requirements or discover other data sets that may assist their research. It can also serve to promote library data management services.

 **Institutional Links**. A LibGuide can make for convenient one-stop gathering of sites that researchers may need such as the Research Office or institutional repository.

 **Tutorials**. With the LibGuide as a research starting point for the team, a select number (< 5) of tutorials can answer problems the team might encounter when a librarian isn’t available, for example a quick refresher on importing PubMed citations into citation management software.

 **Chat box**. If the librarian has a personal chat account and is available during most working hours, this may be useful to include with the contact information.

There are a few potential challenges to developing a LibGuide for a research team. Groups that span multiple institutions will not all be able to access proxied material. Usage attrition can happen, potentially alleviated through communication with the librarian. Scaling collaboration and updating various unique guides can be difficult for busy librarians with many other responsibilities.

However, with the development of a LibGuide comes the possibility to collaborate further with a research team. Usage statistics can guide revision and provide an opportunity for the librarian to communicate with the team and further develop the supportive relationship. LibGuides is used by many libraries and can be expanded to reach a new audience to promote the offerings of the library and the expertise of the library staff.