Using Student-led LibGuides to create an interdisciplinary geography environment on campus

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What are LibGuides?

LibGuides is an increasingly popular content management platform created by Springshare that can curate knowledge and share information, organize class and subject specific resources, and create and manage websites. This includes handling intensive tasks such as SEO search promotion, checking URL links, and multimedia functionality which makes it more likely for any work to be maintained long-term throughout a program.

Perhaps more importantly for creating an interdisciplinary environment, LibGuides are designed to be a “librarian-first approach” or easy to use, customizable, able to build relationships within a campus community.

As the platforms use grows to thousands of libraries worldwide, the platforms reach itself is an incentive. Students can see how it can contribute to course assignments but also to build student resumes and the add to the greater body of knowledge.

LibGuides can also expose students to a tool used in their future work such as school libraries, public K-12 Districts, public libraries, specialized libraries, and consortiums.

Why Geography Student Led LibGuides?

Geography Student Led LibGuides makes it possible to:
- Curate interdisciplinary spatial themes to promote across campus learning
- Integrate geography into promotable events to create a dynamic environment
- Retain and build upon each semester’s class to build a sense of permanence
- Promote student work as authentic content material used across campus
- Reach a broad audience
  - Students and faculty across campus
  - Alumni and future students
  - Participating event audiences
  - Family and friends
  - General public

Abstract: Undergraduate geography educators must regularly teach an extensive range of introductory geographic concepts to an array of disciplines and majors across campus. Locating common ground that meets the expectations and future professional needs of students can be challenging.

This poster presents a framework for establishing a geography cohort on campus using themed LibGuides as part of a semester long project to create applied geo-literacy educational outreach, giving students a chance to collaborate on community building and service with outside organizations for a real-world purpose, creating a portfolio item for resumes, and building upon the shared knowledge of previous semester cohorts.

Working with a campus library as a centralized contact, LibGuides embed collected texts, student projects, ESRI StoryMaps, and other resources in a dynamic format that can be shared with educators creating a network tool for potential geography partnerships and embedding cross-disciplinary geo-literacy. Further, LibGuide collaborations can act as prototypes to provide support for future funded projects and works.

References:


