# Making Your User Guides Relevant in a 2.0 World

LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE
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# **Brief History of User Guides**

- From Pathfinder to <u>Static Web Pages</u>
- First emerged in the mid 1990's
- Challenge of Paper...Wanting Automation
- Librarians spend a great deal of time creating and updating guides...Is it worth the investment?
- Individually created by instutition with varying standards and uses

# **Static Web Pages**





**HELIN Catalog** 

E-Journals

Reference Databases

Internet Resources

**User Guides** 

Library Skills Tutorial

Special Collections

Libraries Home Hours Site Index Contact Information

### University Libraries Subject Guides

#### Business, Labor & Economics —

#### Marketing and Advertising

To find books on marketing topics in the HELIN catalog, use subjects such as "Marketing" or "Advertising" and their subdivisions.

Brand Names & Market Shares | Demographic & Marketing Information |

#### Advertising & Media | E-Resources | Electronic Indexes & Databases

#### **Brand Names & Market Shares**

#### 10

#### URI Ref Business Table

#### Encyclopedia of Consumer Brands. 3 vols. 1994.

Gives detailed profiles of the United States' most popular names, including a history of the brand, and analysis of the brand's standing in its Market, and advertising innovations and strategies. A picture of the brand's logo is provided, as is a short bibliography.

#### URI Ref Business Table Earlier in Serial Stacks. 1991, 1997-(Annual)

#### Market Share Reporter.

Compilation of reported market share data on companies, products, and service.

#### URI Ref Business Table

#### World Market Share Reporter.

Compilation of reported market share data on companies, products, and services at the international level

#### Demographic & Market Information

top

#### URI Ref Business Table Earlier in Serial Stacks. 1993-(Annual)

#### Demographics USA.

Contains detailed demographic information for all states and countries, including a measure of consumer buying power. Ranks metro areas by population characteristics and sales of types of products. Sales, employment, and number of establishments by type are also given.

#### Advertising & Media

top

#### URI Ref Business Table

#### Standard Directory of Advertising Agencies.

For each U.S. advertising agency, this directory gives the agency's specialization, officers, account executives, approximate annual billing, breakdown by advertising media, and names of accounts. Also includes ranked lists of advertising agencies.

#### E-Resources

top

#### http://www.census.gov/main/www/subjects.html

#### Census Bureau.

Official government source for a broad range of social, demographic, business, and economic statistics.

#### http://www.bls.gov/cex/

#### Consumer Expenditure Survey.

Consists of two surveys collected for the Bureau of Labor Statistics by the Census Bureau, the quarterly Interview survey, and the Diary survey, that provide information on the buying habits of American Consumers, including data on their expenditures, income, and consumer unit (families and single consumers) characteristics.

#### http://www.prb.org

#### Population Reference Bureau.

Non-profit organization that provides international statistical information on population, health, and the environment.

#### http://www.thomasnet.com/

#### ThomasNet.

Search engine that provides one source for finding the exact product, service, or supplier information obtained from the the knowledge base of Thomas Publishing Company family of products. Website searchable by product/service category, company name and brand name.

#### Electronic Indexes & Databases

top

Journal articles on the subjects of Marketing and Advertising may be found in the following indexes and databases by conducting a keyword search or using subject headings such as Marketing, Advertising Agencies, and Demographic Surveys.

# Why User Guides?

- Enhances information literacy instruction
- Allows virtual access to facilitate communication with remote patrons
- Model proper research techniques and resources
- Adds a virtual "librarianesque" presence to your website, filling a void when the library is closed
- Can facilitate communication and interaction between librarian and user

# Modern User Expectations

- Content specific enough to meet their needs
- Variety of customizable options
- Continuous updates with current information
- Sophistocated search functionality
- Easily found on the library web page, catalog or through the use of search boxes

# Modern User Expectations Continued

- Familiarity/comfort with interface
- Explanation of resources and their applicability
- Minimal number of clicks to access materials
- Easy to understand language no library jargon
- Anytime, anywhere convienence

# **Meeting Their Expectations**

- Target an appropriate audience
- Ask for input
- Be specific!
- Quality vs. Quantity
- Make it easy
- Check links and update regularly
- Speak their language

# Basic Technologies Available

### Make Static Pages Appear Dynamic with Widgets!

- Del.icio.us Listing
  - Great organization tool but links need to be maintenance
- RSS Feeds of books and other materials
  - Simply extracted from the catalog but need some tech skills
- Simple Chat Widgets
  - Easy to communicate with users but need to be available
- Simple Search Widgets
  - Makes searching one stop but need to know html code

# Social Bookmarking Listing

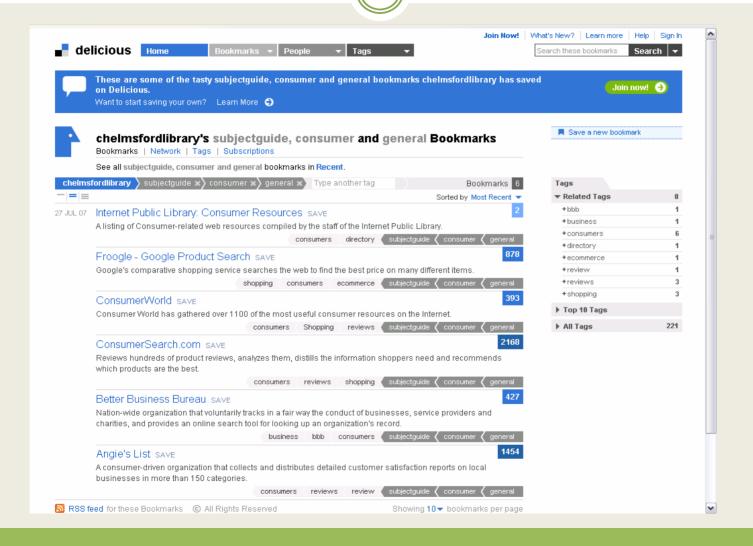
### Pros

- Free!
- Collaborative
- Multiple tagging for organization
- Variety of sophistication

### Cons

- Link maintenance
- Controlled Vocabulary
- RSS feeding to web page can be difficult with code

# **Example Delicious Listing**



# Delicious Implemented in Guide

#### Other Suggested Resources

MVLC's Internet Consumer Resources Guide - Consumer resource websites collected and maintained by the staff of the MVLC.

#### **Health Information**

#### My Delicious Bookmarks

#### Physician Profiles from the MA Board of Registration in Medicine

On-Line Physician Profiles, including education, training, and experience of all licensed MA physicians.

#### CPL :: Reference :: Health Resources

Chelmsford Library's Health Resources Subject Guide

#### Government-Sponsored

#### My Delicious Bookmarks

#### **Massachusetts Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation**

Protects Massachusetts consumers by alerting them to disreputable practices and by promoting fair and honest competition.

#### **Federal Consumer Information Center**

Answers to your questions about the Federal government and common consumer issues. The citizen's help desk for everyday life.

#### FTC Bureau of Consumer Protection - Consumer Information

Consumer Protection is the online service of the Office of Consumer and Business Education of the Bureau of Consumer Protection. It offers the full text of consumer publications on a wide range of categories.

#### Consumer.gov(USA): Home Page

A consumer driven organization that collects and distributes detailed customer satisfaction reports on local businesses in more than 150 categories.

#### General

#### My Delicious Bookmarks

#### Internet Public Library: Consumer Resources

A listing of Consumer-related web resources compiled by the staff of the Internet Public Library.

#### Froogle - Google Product Search

Google's comparative shopping service searches the web to find the best price on many different items.

#### Consumerition

Consumer World has gathered over 1100 of the most useful consumer resources on the Internet.

#### ConsumerSearch.com

Reviews hundreds of product reviews, analyzes them, distills the information shoppers need and recommends which products are the best.

#### Better Business Bureau

Nation-wide organization that voluntarily tracks in a fair way the conduct of businesses, service providers and charities, and provides an online search tool for looking up an organization's record.

#### Angie's List

A consumer-driven organization that collects and distributes detailed customer satisfaction reports on local businesses in more than 150 categories.

#### Car Information

#### My Delicious Bookmarks

#### NADA Guides

Pricing new autos and trucks, car reviews and free car quotes from local dealers.

# RSS Feeds (Really Simple Syndication)

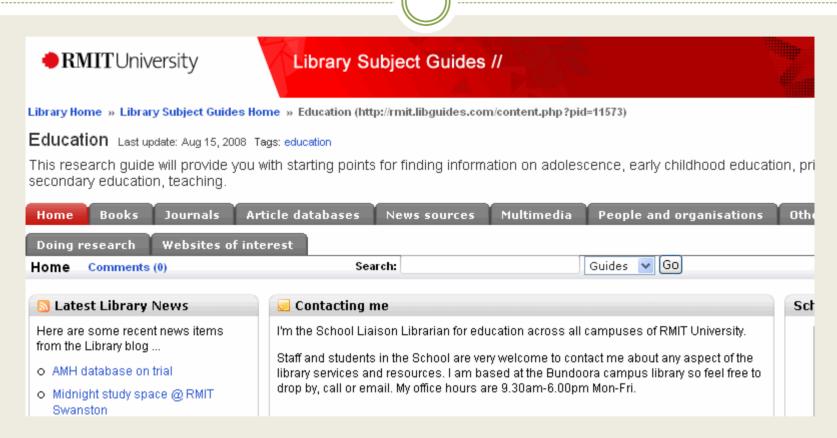
### Pros

- Aggregates content into one location
- Create many different feed
- Push and pull technology
- Free

### Cons

- Subscription based
- Need to know a little html but there are generators
- Consumer driven

# **Example RSS Feeds**



This example has library news as the RSS feed on the subject guide. Other library subject guides have incorporate new book feeds or delicious web site feeds that pertain to a specific topic.

# Online Chat Widgets

### Pros

### Cons

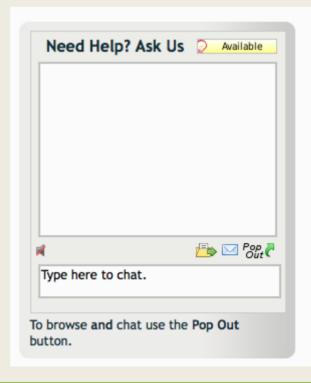
- Free
- Provides instant access
- Low to no tech skills needed
- Point-of-Need from anywhere

- Fee
- Availability
- Demand

# **Example Chat Widgets**



Chat widgets can be found additionally in the catalog or designate ASK page.





# **Search Widgets**

### Pros

- Vendors have free ones that you can adapt.
- Allows users to search catalog or databases in multiple places.
- Google-like and familiar.

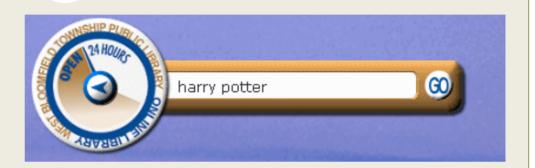
### Cons

- Need to know some html code.
- Vendor might not offer a search widget for product or may offer at a cost.

# **Example Search Widgets**



Search widgets are becoming popular on user guides, especially where federated search products are being implemented.





# **Automated Technology Options**

### Products that Make User Guide Creation Easy

#### o Wikis

 A collection of interlinked web pages with information, designed to be collaboratively authored by a number of individuals

### Library à la Cart

 An open source tool created by Oregon State University Libraries fully customized by librarians or staff at your own institution

#### Lib Guides

 A product released by the Springshare company that provides offsite hosting and a pre-programmed interface for creating single or multiple page web-based user guides

### Wikis

### Pros

- Free (Sometimes)
- Increases Productivity
- Easy to use and update
- Search functionality
- Many options available
- Easy cross-references

- Fee (Sometimes)
- Security
- Set up
- Local hosting
- Many options available
- User generated content

### Wiki Example

history



Main Page

discussion

VIEW SOURCE

#### Welcome to the Ohio University Libraries Biz Wiki

#### Eliz Whii Hona

- a. What's New

navigation

- Business Blog
- Recent changes
- Randon page
- a Help

seanth.



vour librarian



General Business | International Business | Company Information | Industry Information Marketing Information | Economic Information | Research How-To's | Browse A-Z

Select a Category to get started, or use the search box to the left. For more Biz Wild tips, please visit the Help Page.

The Biz Wiki is a collection of business information resources available through Otio University Libraries of It is designed to assist business researchers in finding the best resources for their projects or topics. The Biz Wiki contains articles about business reference books, databases, websites, and other research guides. Nearly all of the resources will only be available to current members of the Ohio University community, as many of the resources are subscription databases or local reference resources. To learn more about the Biz Wiki, visit the About Biz Wiki page.

# Welcome to the Biz Wiki

Talk to Chad Chad is ordina

Talk to Chad

# Library à la Carte from Oregon State

### Pros

### Cons

- Free
- Fully customizable
- Variety of Web 2.0 tools can be easily integrated

- Programming skills and time required
- Server space and maintainence must be locally available
- No easy Facebook integration



### Library à la Carte Example

#### Children's Literature Librarian

#### Maureen Kelly

Office Hours:

OSU Cascades Campus, Bend, Oregon

Contact Info:

1 (541) 322-3110

Maureen.Kelly@oregonstate.edu

#### About this Guide

This is a general research guide identifying and finding books for children or young adults, as well as information about this literature. You'll find suggestions for locating books, articles, topical overviews, research tools, and factual information. If further assistance is needed, please contact the subject librarian.

#### Children's Literature

General Information Finding Books Finding Articles Reference Sources Useful Websites

#### Quick Links

Academic Search Premier

Professional Development Collection

CLCD Children's Literature Comprehensive Database

**ERIC** Education Resources Information Center

ILL Forms

Off-Campus Access

E-campus

#### Overview

This is a general research guide for identifying and finding books for children and young adults, as well as information about this literature. You'll find suggestions for locating books, articles, topical overviews, research tools, and factual information. If further assistance is needed, please contact the subject librarian.

### LibGuides

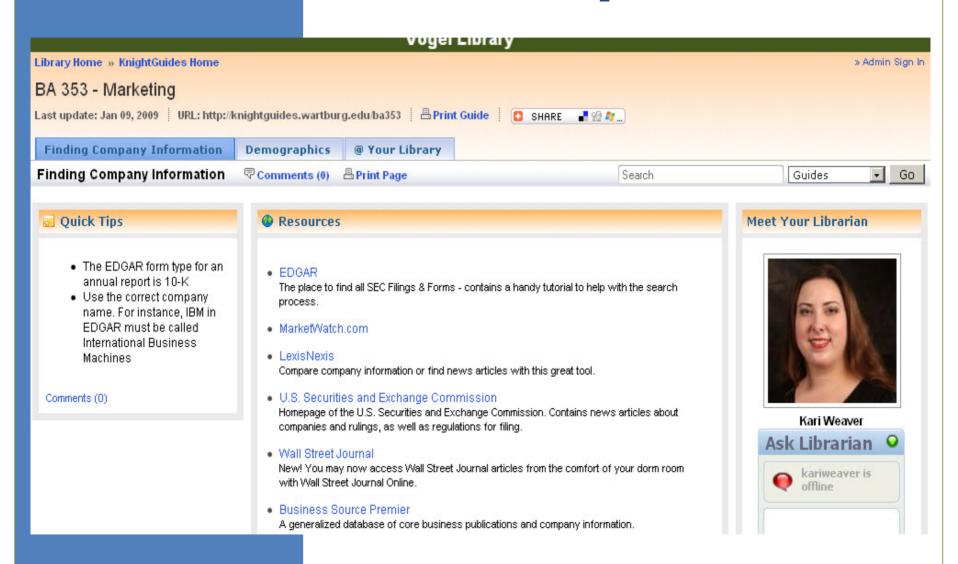
### Pros

- Easy updates
- Limited web design skills required
- Customization available
- Off-site hosting
- Information is easily reusable

### Cons

- Cost is Higher
- Off-site servers cause some access problems
- Not fully customizable





# **Advanced Technology Options**

- Need time, some money, and know how!
- Podcasting and Screencasting
  - Subscription based
  - Anytime, anywhere delivery for convenience
  - Need a good video recorder, audio equipment, and server space
  - Great for book reviews or general tours

### Tutorials

- Anytime, anywhere access; Point of need
- Need screen capturing software; with good audio capabilities

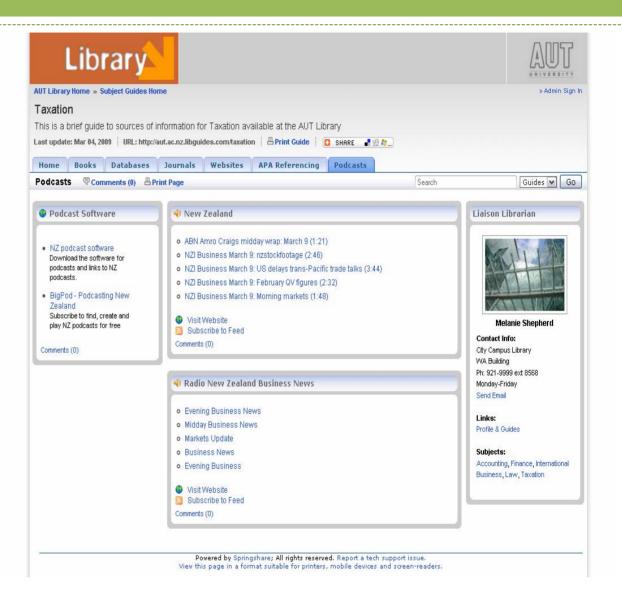
### Mashups!

- This is the future of the library subject guide
- RSS feeds, Images, everything feed into one web page
- Content is not owned by creator



# Example Podcasting in LibGuides

From Auckland University of Technology in New Zealand



## **Example Tutorial**

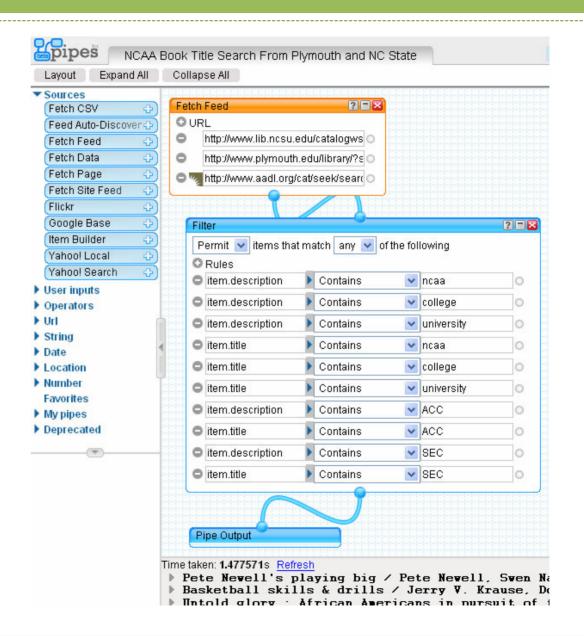


### Example Mashup Process

Obtained from the blog:

Library Playground

http://libraryplayground. wordpress.com using search phrase Mashup



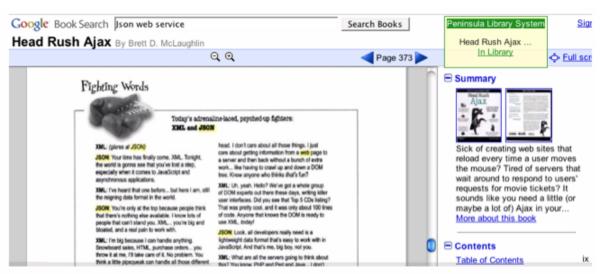
### Example Final Mashup Product

Obtained from the blog:

Medallia Blog

Post by Al Nevaraz

http://blog.medallia.co m/2007/04/google\_pri nt\_library\_lookup\_ma. html







#### Permanent link to this record

| Location                         | Call No.             | Status       |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| College of San Mateo Reserves    | QA76.73.J39 M35 2006 | CHECK SHELF  |
| Menlo Park - Main Nonfiction     | 005.133 AJAX 2006    | DUE 04-26-07 |
| San Mateo Main Nonfiction 2nd FI | 005.133 AJAX         | DUE 04-13-07 |

# Implementation @ YOUR Library

- Getting buy in from staff
- Forming a team
- Planning for implementation
  - Creating standards
  - Interfacing with tech department
  - Matching talents with tools
  - Addressing user expectations

# Implementation @ YOUR Library

- Finding Help and Experience
  - Look locally and globally!
  - Online tutorials and web guides
- Assess your User Guides
  - Usage statistics
  - Surveys
  - Focus Groups

# Final Thoughts...

- Choose Web 2.0 Tools Carefully
- Be Realistic About Your Available Time, Money, and Technological Skills
- Start Small and Build on Your Momentum

# Recommended Readings

- Buckland, M. (1992). *Redesigning library services: A manifesto.* Chicago: American Library Association.
- Courtney, Nancy, ed. (2007) Library 2.0 and Beyond. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited.
- Gibbons, S. (2007). *The academic library and the net gen student.* Chicago: American Library Association.
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- Jackson, R., & Pellack, L.J. (2004). Internet subject guides in academic libraries: An analysis of contents, practices, and opinions. *Reference & User Services Quarterly, 43*, 327-335.
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