Course Targeted Research Guides to Support Business Education

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Information Problem
BGI’s students have the ability to search for resources in the library’s Resource Database. However, lists are sometimes difficult to navigate, especially when students are unsure as to which resource to use on a project. It becomes even more confusing if interdisciplinary elements are present. Some students run into difficulty finding and assessing appropriate resources. The library needs to present available resources in a way that students can quickly access information that is relevant to the specific courses. This also presents the opportunity to inform and guide students to new resources that are highly valuable for their interest areas.

Planned Intervention

Why Research Guides?
Research guides organize high quality information resources into one spot that students can access online around a specific subject. The guides expose students to current topics in their course area, as well as new resources that they can use going forward professionally.

Do Students Use Research Guides?
Course specific guides see highest usage as opposed to general subject guides. Three reasons students use guides:
1. Feel stuck
2. Find information on new discipline
3. When instructors suggest using the guide

In Two Steps
First evaluate coverage in BGI’s Resource Database.
Then discover new resources by searching key concepts.

Step 1. Gain Faculty Interest
8 course guides completed
Created template for future guides
Updated BGI’s Resource Database with new tools
High satisfaction from faculty and staff

Step 2. Determine Information Needs
Questions creep up during resource discovery

Step 3. Find Resources
Bibliographic databases
Professional associations
Business blogs
Other business schools
Trade journals

Step 4. Review & Approve with Faculty

Step 5. Build & Publish Guide

References

Research Guide Design Best Practices
• Create a clean, simple guide with few tabs and limited scrolling
• Limit guides to top resources rather than being comprehensive to prevent overwhelming the students
• Use language that resonates with the student

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