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Fall 2016

LibGuide + Relections

Reflections

The purpose of this assignment was to create a LibGuide for senior school students (ages 11 to 18) at [a private] International School in Switzerland. Having had varying configurations of my three children attend this school for the past ten years (first my oldest, then my two oldest, then my two youngest, now my youngest), I am intimately familiar with the complex and specific information needs of this community. The student body of roughly 300 is composed of children of up to 55 different nationalities. They speak a range of native tongues, but the learning language is English. All students also study French, the language of the region, but not all are proficient. Finding English language resources in Switzerland is challenging. The situation is complicated by the fact that most families are new to the region and are struggling to integrate into the Swiss community. Senior school students are also navigating adolescence and the university application process, like all other children their age. Being very familiar with the information needs of foreign teenagers in Switzerland and the difficulty they face in accessing relevant resources, I dug into this assignment with a passion.

I chose to focus on free internet information sources for several reasons. Modern teenagers expect their information needs to be met immediately on the internet with mobile devices. Other factors include the scarcity of school library print materials and the scarcity of any English language print materials in Switzerland. I chose the LibGuide format because it is intuitive, accessible, mobile, convenient, and links to other internet

sources. I organized the information needs of the International School's students into relevant categories: Homework Resources, Books and Reading, University Guidance, Activities, and Wellness and Safety. These categories are conveniently arranged by LibGuides into separate pages.

The resources included in my LibGuide correspond to the principles of developmentally appropriate practice (DAP) described by Cassell and Hiremath (2013, pp. 307-310). Whereas resources recommended in the textbook are geared toward US users, the resources included in the [private] International School Resource Guide are adapted to multinational English-speaking students who are residents of Switzerland. Being in Europe, it is important to strike a balance between UK and American English language resources, especially for the sections dealing with health, safety and wellness, universities, reading, and reference materials. Some essential local information, however, is only available in French.

The [private] International School Resource Guide is useful, varied, and personal, reflecting the design preferences and information needs of this age group. Studies indicate that younger internet users prefer web pages that are perceived as fun, personalized, contain little text, and have a search feature (Cyr, 2014, p. 10). I feel that I successfully utilized the LibGuide technology. I was able to include text, links, images, and videos. I also used a Google Scholar search and a questionnaire for feedback. Several images and a video in my LibGuide are of and by current and former students of the school, with whom users have a personal connection.

Research by Tractinsky "suggests that esthetics and visual design may be especially important to users in this age group" (Cyr, 2014, p. 10). According to SJSU

professor Raymond Dean (2016), current web design is trending toward a minimalist approach that highlights the content of the web page: muted colors with sparse bolder colors for emphasis, thin borders, sparse graphics, and plenty of white space. These trends are apparent on many of today's most popular websites: Wikipedia, Google, YouTube, and Apple. Although design choices available with the LibGuide software are very limited, I opted for simplicity wherever possible. I chose square corners, white backgrounds, and unobtrusive borders to achieve a modern look that does not distract from the content. I was confined to a three-column layout, to the sort of content allowed in the different types of boxes, and to the placement of images and text. However, I feel that the end result effectively incorporates current design trends, user design preferences, and user information needs to the extent possible.

I would have liked to include school library materials in 'Books and Reading' and 'Homework Resources.' However, the school librarian was very unhelpful and refused to meet with me. If I were to continue this project in the future, I would like to add Subject Guides, with specific resources recommended by teachers at the school. I would also like to find a way to incorporate resources from more countries if possible, while still focusing on English language content. I would also like to add information pertaining to multiculturalism, which is a central theme at the school.

My project demonstrates my proficiency in Core Competency I: "Use service concepts, principles, and techniques to connect individuals or groups with accurate, relevant, and appropriate information." In completing this assignment, I identified the information needs of a specific community, selected appropriate information resources to suit these needs, and utilized the best technology with which to provide access to these

resources. I am extremely satisfied with the [private] International School Resource Guide, and feel that this is an excellent culmination of the concepts, principles, and techniques I have learned about reference services. Having been personally involved with this community for a number of years, I feel that I have created for them a useful and much needed information resource. My daughter and her friends have reviewed and approved my LibGuide, and have requested access. I plan to approach the school principal to explore ways to expand the [private] International School Resource Guide and to incorporate it into the school website.

Screenshots

Home Page

The screenshot shows the home page of the International School Resource Guide. At the top, there is a breadcrumb trail: "Springhare > LibGuides Sandbox for Library Schools > International School Resource Guide". The page title is "International School Resource Guide" with tags: "art, health, highschool, music, reading, research, sports, teenagers, university". Below the title, it says "Resources for senior school students at an International School in Switzerland." and "Last Updated: Jan 26, 2017 | URL: http://libraryschool.libguides.com/internationalschool | Print Guide | Email Alerts".

The navigation menu includes: Home, Homework Resources, Books and Reading, University Guidance, Activities, and Wellness and Safety. There is also a search bar and a "This Guide | Search" button.

The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column has a section titled "A resource for International School's students" with a description: "This website contains valuable information, resources, and links for Senior School students at International School in Switzerland. Click on the main navigation tabs to access information on:" followed by a bulleted list: Homework Resources, Books and Reading, University Guidance, Activities, and Wellness and Safety. Below the list is a placeholder "[photo removed]".

The right column has a section titled "SJSU Assignment" with a description: "This LibGuide was created for an assignment at San José State University. The content on this LibGuide is private, and only visible to those who know the URL. Images and identifying information that appeared in the original assignment have been removed. The purpose of this LibGuide is purely educational." It is signed "Signed, Mary Beth Romo" and has a "Comments (0)" link.

Below the SJSU Assignment section is another section titled "Multinational students in Switzerland" with a description: "[The photo that appeared in this space has been removed] International School's 2013 graduating class: 24 countries represented by 24 students."

At the bottom of the page, there is a footer: "Powered by Springhare. All rights reserved. Report a web support issue. View this page in a format suitable for printers and screen readers or mobile devices."

Homework Resources


Springhare » LibGuides Sandbox for Library Schools » International School Resource Guide Admin Sign In

International School Resource Guide Tags: art, health, highschool, music, reading, research, sports, teenagers, university
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Last Updated: Jan 26, 2017 | URL: <http://libraryschool.libguides.com/internationalschool> | [Print Guide](#) | [Email Alerts](#)

[Home](#) | [Homework Resources](#) | [Books and Reading](#) | [University Guidance](#) | [Activities](#) | [Wellness and Safety](#)

Homework Resources [Print Page](#) Search: This Guide | [Search](#)

Using Wikipedia wisely




Wikipedia:

- Wikipedia is a good resource for general information and for hyperlinks to more in-depth resources.
- Usually, research requires **additional resources**. Try the school library's collection or some of the free internet resources listed on this page.
- Double check the accuracy of Wikipedia information by locating the same information in at least one other reliable resource.


Evaluating internet resources

Use the CARS checklist to evaluate internet resources:

- Credibility
- Accuracy
- Reasonableness
- Support



Writing tips



Why cite:

- Citing your sources makes your paper look stronger, more scholarly, and more reliable.
- Citations give credit to the original author of the quotation or the idea.

When to cite:

- When you include the exact words of another author.
- When you paraphrase or summarize the ideas of another author.

How to cite:

- There are several styles used to cite sources. Some common styles are MLA and APA. Use the style your teacher prefers.
- Here is an online resource to help you format your citations.

- The Purdue Online

School library resources

Check the reference materials at the school library. Ask the librarian for help in finding resources to suit your needs.

Some reliable internet resources

- The American Heritage Student Dictionary**
Use for definitions and correct spelling.
- Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Thesaurus**
Use for finding synonyms. Using a variety of words can make your work richer, more interesting, and more powerful.
- Encyclopedia Britannica**
The free version of the globally renowned general information source with nearly 65,000 articles.

Books and Reading


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Books and Reading [Print Page](#) Search: This Guide | [Search](#)

Be a bookworm




Recommended reading

"What should I read?" Well, here are some recommendations:

- The Guardian's best teen reads**
The Guardian, a British daily newspaper, recommends books for teens.
- Goodreads teen book lists**
Goodreads is an Amazon company with a user-based database of books, reviews, and recommendations. The lists for teens are categorized by genre.
- Scholastic's recommendations for ages 11-13**
Categorized reading lists by Scholastic, an American education, publishing, and media corporation.
- British Library**
The Online Gallery of the British Library offers a rich variety of virtual books, materials, and exhibits.
- BookTrust**
Explore recommendations for teens by BookTrust, the largest reading charity in the UK.
- NPR's top 100 teen books**
Reading recommendations for teens by National Public Radio, an American network of non-profit membership media organization.
- Which Book?**
Books are suggested based on factors chosen by users.

Local libraries



[The links that originally appeared in this section have been removed.]

- A link to local libraries
A directory with links to all the public libraries in Swiss Romansh.
- A link to a local English Library
A private, membership-based lending library with books and audio materials in English.
- A link to another local Library in English
A private, membership-based lending library with materials in English.

Start a book club

Do you love to read? Why not start a book club? Here are some tips about how to start a book club with kids your age:

- Starting a book club

School library books

Check the International School library collection for reading materials.

Activities

Springhare » LibGuides Sandbox for Library Schools » International School Resource Guide Admin Sign In

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Activities [Print Page](#) Search: [This Guide](#) | [Search](#)

Driving in Vaud


- Procedure for obtaining category B driver license. Steps required to obtain a car driver license in Vaud. Links to official site of canton of Vaud.

Ski the Alps

Filed during an International School's ski trip by a student who currently attends NY Film Academy.


[video removed for privacy reasons]

Performing arts



- Music conservatory and jazz school of Montreux and Vevey. Musical instrument and voice lessons.
- Ardor in Loft. Dance studio. Lessons taught in ballet, hip hop, afrobeat, break, theatre and contemporary dance.
- Bright Lights Creative. Drama. Drama camps for kids.

Singing competition



Are you a budding pop star? If you are between 8 and 15 years old, try the Kids Voice competition:

- Kids Voice. Kids singing competition. Video recitals at various locations in Switzerland.

Sports

Below are links to sports teams, clubs, and instruction:

- CVVT Cercle de la Voile Vevey-La Tour. Sailing school in Vevey and La Tour-de-Pai.
- Montreux Natation. Competitive swimming and lessons at the Maladère pool in Clérens. Racing, synchro, water polo.
- Ecole Suisse de Ski. Swiss ski school.
- InterSoccer. Competitive and recreational football for boys and girls of all ages.
- FSG Montreux. Artistic gymnastics for boys and girls.
- CP Morges. Figure skating club in Morges.
- Club des Patineurs Lausanne Malley. Figure skating club in Lausanne Malley.
- Montreux Tennis Club. Tennis lessons for kids.
- Club Veveysan de Tennis. Tennis lessons and competitive tennis for kids in St. Leger.
- ACHVG. Ice hockey association of Vaud.

University Guidance


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University Guidance [Print Page](#) Search: [This Guide](#) | [Search](#)

International School's courses of study



- IGCSE- Years 10-11. Official site of Cambridge International Examinations.
- International Baccalaureate. IBO official site with information about the diploma programme.
- High School Diploma. Link to International School's HSDP page. [link removed]

Helpful online resources



- UCAS. Universities and Colleges Admissions Service is a UK organisation for applying to British universities. Includes helpful information for prospective students.
- Study in the US. Information on studying in the US by the College Board, a not-for-profit organization. Membership includes over 6,000 international educational institutions.
- Swiss Universities. Higher education in Switzerland. Some information in English.
- CampusTours. Virtual tours of over 1,700 university campuses in the USA, UK, France, China, and Canada.
- US Bureau of Labor Statistics. US Department of Labor page for students.
- UK Labour Market Projections: 2012 to 2022. Employment projections for UK labour market.
- Russell Group. Information on 24 top UK universities that form the Russell Group.

University rankings

There are many organizations that rank universities. These rankings are subject to the criteria of each system. These criteria may or may not be useful or important to you. The important thing is to find the right fit for you.

- THE World University Rankings. Times Higher Education world university rankings. Can be sorted by geographical location, course of study, or size.
- U.S. News rankings of American universities. Ranks US universities by geographical area, course of study, type of school. Also gives advice about finances, applications, etc.

University Guidance Counselor

Make an appointment with International School's University Guidance Counselor.

[email removed]

Wellness and Safety

Springer + LibGuides Sandbox for Library Schools + International School Resource Guide

International School Resource Guide Tags: art, health, highschool, music, reading, research, sports, teenagers, university

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Wellness and Safety | Print Page | Search: | This Guide | Search


Emergency telephone numbers

Police: 112
Fire: 118
Ambulance: 144
Rage (helicopter): 1414

Youth protection services

- Protection of minors in Vaud
For concerns about physical, psychological, or sexual abuse or neglect.
- Vaud regional offices for the protection of minors
Contact information.
- Youth safety
Vaud Police Department
information on issues relevant to young people: cyberbullying, road safety, swimming safety, harassment, sexting, mobile phones, internet safety, video games, and local resources. In French.

Health and well being



- Teen boys' health
Sponsored by UK National Health Service.
- Teen girls' health
Sponsored by UK National Health Service.
- Teen health
Sponsored by the US National Library of Medicine.
- Teen sexual health
Sponsored by the US National Library of Medicine.
- Teen mental health
Sponsored by the US National Library of Medicine.
- Drugs and young people
Sponsored by the US National Library of Medicine.
- Drugs
Sponsored by the UK National Health Service.

Feedback

Was this information helpful?
 Yes No Don't Know

How useful is this page?
(1 = Not Useful, 5 = Very Useful)
 1 2 3 4 5

Additional comments:

Your Email:

References

Cassell, K. A., & Hiremath, U. (2013). *Reference and information services: An introduction* (Third ed.). Chicago, IL: Neal-Schuman.

Cyr, D. (2014, March). Return visits: A review of how web site design can engender visitor loyalty. In *Journal of Information Technology* (29)1, 1-26.
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