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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 form 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

Homework Resources

Books and Reading

Activities

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

Resources for senior school students at an International School in Switzerland.

Last Updated: Jan 26, 2017 | URL: http://libraryschool.libguidescms.com/internationalschool | Print Guide | Email Alerts

Home | Homework Resources | Books and Reading | University Guidance | Activities | Wellness and Safety

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.

Singing competition

Are you a budding pop star? If you are between 8 and 16 years old, try the Kids Voice competition:

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

Ski the Alps

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

[video removed for privacy reasons]

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-Peilz
- Montreux Natation
  Competitive swimming and lessons at the Maladaire pool in Clarens. Racing, sychro, 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. Léger.
- ACVHG
  Ice hockey association of Vaud.

Performing arts

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

University Guidance

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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 Programme
  Link to International School's HSDP page. [link removed]

University Guidance Counselor

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

[email removed]

Helpful online resources

- UCAS
  Universities and Colleges Admissions Services 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 1700 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.

Wellness and Safety

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. doi:10.1057/jit.2013.25

Dean, R. (2016). Lecture on website design trends. Personal Collection of R. Dean, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA.