Re-Imagining LibGuides at the RIT Libraries

In June of 2013 Springshare announced a new v2 LibGuides platform built on Bootstrap. Libraries needed to decide if, when and how they would migrate content to the new system.

v1 Out of the Box

v2 Out of the Box

v2 RIT’s InfoGuides Customization

Migrate or Start New?
- Evaluated labor & time to delete v1 guides with no/low stats and to clean up migrated guides that might break
- Inspired by Springshare Lounge thread called STARTING OVER WITH LG2
- Management excited to start new

Spring/Summer 2015
Subject Headings, Content & Design Choices
- Guides: 259 reduced to 130 (as of April 2016)
- Subject headings: 62 reduced to 7
- Intern evaluated 49 v2 site for unique design & content
- Coder/Designer created, coded and implemented our new v2Look & Fee/using v2 CMS API & Bootstrap

Summer 2015
Training
- Delivered customized training via short online streaming modules
- Weekly n-person topics with hands on assistance in lab session
- One on one coaching

Summer 2015
New Guide Philosophy
- Content & Style Guidelines
- Pedagogy based
- More visuals
- Class or Subject Content
- Sustainable/Updated guides

Summer 2016
Lessons Learned
- Chat traffic down - wording issue?
- Built-in Publishing Workflow not efficient for content and design coaching and consistency
- Streaming content a challenge
- Reliance on one coder for customizations potentially risky

Future Aspirations
- Branding campaign for InfoGuides
- Customized templates for global campuses (Dubai, Kosovo, Croatia)
- Usability testing of guides
- Leverage metadata - optimized search inside and outside of system
- Reduce asset and guide bloat
- Standardize common information literacy assets useful in all subjects
- Share more code customizations

A PDF of this poster, customized code, style guidelines, citations to articles on LibGuides/pedagogy, and more available at this address:

http://infoguides.rit.edu/styleguide