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Spring 2017

## Getting LibGuide UX Just Right: Balancing Consistency, Nutrition, & Taste

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### Recommended Citation

Eastman, Teagan and Sundt, Alex J., "Getting LibGuide UX Just Right: Balancing Consistency, Nutrition, & Taste" (2017). *Library Faculty & Staff Presentations*. Paper 104.

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# Getting LibGuide UX Just Right:

Balancing Consistency, Nutrition, & Taste

Teagan Eastman

Alex Sundt



We need to talk about  
LibGuides...



**TOO MANY  
COOKS**

# RESEARCH TIPS

34

8

3

3



## Off Campus Access

Current USU students and employees may use library databases, e-journals, and e-books from computers off campus. When you click on links to these sources from the library web site, a research guide, or Canvas, you will be prompted to enter your **A number** and **Banner password**.

- [Off Campus Access instructions](#)

## Journal Article Databases

The following are selected from USU Library's collection of more than 200 online databases.

- [SciFinder Scholar \(Chemical Abstracts\)](#)
  - \* Premier database for journal articles, conference papers, patents, and more in chemistry and related areas.
- [ACS Journals \(American Chemical Society\)](#)
  - \* Full text of American Chemical Society journals.
  - \* Web Editions covers 1950s/60s to the present; Legacy Archives covers 1970

0 - all other pages  
Jan 2017

## Subject Guide



Teagan Eastman

[Email Me](#)

## Finding Books

Eat your vegetables  
or  
I want candy?

Heavy  
Instruction



Easy and  
Engaging

# Common Accessibility Problems

- Absent or problematic alt text
- Vague link text, e.g. “Click here”
- Embedded media

# Accessibility & Usability Audit

Audited all public guides using direct inspection and WAVE tool



## Reviewed:

- Link text and link behavior
- Image alt text
- Embedded or linked media
- Layout and # of tabs
- Consistency and currency



# Author Guidelines

- Be consistent
- Condense and cut back content
- “Chunk” information into smaller sections
- Use natural language

# Nutritional LibGuides

(that taste good too)

# RESEARCH TIPS



134

7

7

5

3

## Getting Started



**Getting Started:**  
Background Info  
Library Catalog

## Gathering Information



**Gathering Info:**  
Key Databases  
Search Strategies

## Can I help you?



Alexander Sundt

[Email Me](#)

[Chat is online](#)

## Organize & Cite Your Information



**Organize & Cite:**  
Citation Manuals  
Automatic Cite  
Citation Managers

## Tutorials & Guides



**Tutorials:**

Jan 2017

Contact:  
435-797-4170

Back to the ~~lab~~ kitchen

# Design A

- Infographic-style w/ direct links
- Organized around tasks
- More engaging design

Heavy Instruction | | | Easy and Engaging

## Research in History

Click the name of the resources below to begin historical research!



Gather Background Information

**Credo Reference**



Locate Books

**Library Catalog**



Access Articles

**JSTOR**



Read Historical Newspapers

**New York Times:  
Historical File**

## Need Help?



**Ask a Librarian**



**Citing Sources**

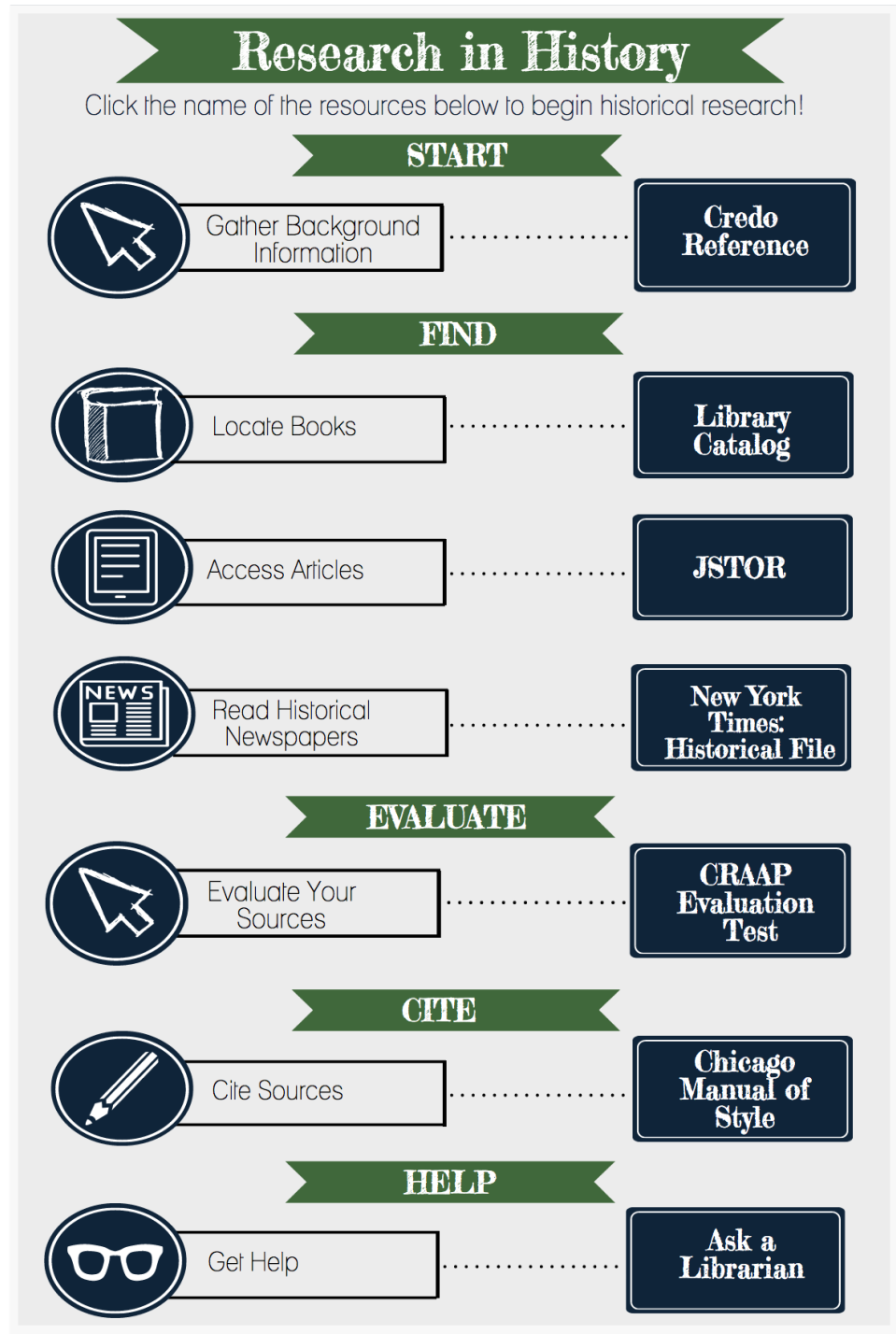


**Quick How To's**

# Design B

- Infographic-style w/ direct links
- Organized around research process
- Middle ground

Heavy Instruction |  | Easy and Engaging



# Design C

- Modification of earlier “table of contents” design
- Instruction-heavy focus

Heavy Instruction | ● | Easy and Engaging

The image displays a user interface design for a research guide titled "RESEARCH TIPS FOR HIST". The design is organized into a grid of five main sections, each with a dark blue header and a white background containing a dark blue square with a white icon:

- Start:** Header "Start", icon of a white arrow pointing right.
- Search:** Header "Search", icon of a white magnifying glass.
- Evaluate Info:** Header "Evaluate Info", icon of a white balance scale.
- Cite:** Header "Cite", icon of a white document with quotation marks.
- Help:** Header "Help", featuring a green banner with the word "HELP" in white, a circular icon of white glasses, a white input field with the text "Get Help", and a dark blue button with the text "Ask a Librarian" in white. A dotted line connects the "Get Help" field to the "Ask a Librarian" button.

In the top right corner of the green header area, there is a cartoon bull mascot wearing a blue vest with a white letter 'A' and holding a sign that says "APPROVED".

# Testing Process

- 6 undergraduates
- Presented all three designs as paper prototypes
- Major questions:
  - What elements read as clickable?
  - Do they appreciate higher-level research process?
  - Which design(s) do they prefer?



# Ideal Design

Students preferred the infographic landing

- Less overwhelming
- Quickly access content
- More digestible

Preferred “Process” headings

## RESEARCH IN HISTORY

START

FIND

EVALUATE

CITE



### GET STARTED

Use these sources to get started with historical research.



Library Catalog  
Credo Reference  
*more resources...*



### FIND RESOURCES

Select a source on the right to begin searching for scholarly articles.



JSTOR  
Project Muse  
Historical Abstracts  
*more resources...*



### EVALUATE INFO

Make sure you are using credible and relevant sources.



Evaluating Websites  
Evaluating Articles  
*more guides...*



### CITE SOURCES

Avoid plagiarism and get help citing with these citation tools and guides.



Online Writing Lab  
Citation Organizers  
Chicago Manual  
*more guides...*



### NEED HELP?

Meet with your librarian  
Jennifer Duncan



(435) 797-4100



[jennifer.duncan@usu.edu](mailto:jennifer.duncan@usu.edu)



Chat is online

“Step away from the  
libguide, dude” – Alex

QUESTIONS?

# Recommended Readings

- Fritch, M., & Pitts, J. (2016) Adding bite to the back: Using LibGuides migration as impetus to introduce strong content standards. *Journal of Electronic Resources Librarianship*. 28 (3), 159-171.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/1941126X.2016.1200926>.
- Magnuson, L. (2015). Accessibility Testing LibGuides 2.0.  
<http://acrl.ala.org/techconnect/post/accessibility-testing-libguides-2-0>
- University of Texas Arlington Libraries. (2015). Digital Learning - Teaching Information Literacy through LibGuides: Usability Findings.  
<http://libguides.uta.edu/DigitalLearning>
- Sonsteby, A. & DeJonghe, J. (2013) Usability testing, user-centered design and LibGuides subject guides: A case study. *Journal of Web Librarianship* 7(1), 83-94. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/19322909.2013.747366>.