



LIBGUIDES: Web 2.0 Content Management and Library Knowledge Sharing System

Gansevoort, NY: Springshare, Inc., 2007-2009. Cost varies by institution.

Reviewed by Lisa M. Sullivan
Reference Librarian
Canisius College
Buffalo, NY

Springshare's *LibGuides* takes the standard library pathfinder and turns it into a Web 2.0 sensation. Organizing information is easy; creating an entire guide and completing the research for it can be done in a matter of hours. *LibGuides* has wiki-like features, allowing users to comment on the information, give suggestions for future content, and rate the material. The guides can also be posted on Facebook and Twitter.

LibGuides is a hosted service, so there is no need to have a dedicated IT person or server space for the program. While knowledge of HTML coding is not needed to use this tool, it may be helpful to be familiar with it to change certain aspects, such as the font for weblinks. Springshare has excellent customer service, along with an online community space where users can share tips and view guides from other libraries.

However, *LibGuides* does have a drawback in that it is "all or nothing" with regards to the display. A specific look can be locked in place that only the administrator has the power to change, or the display can be set as unlocked, allowing every guide designer to choose his or her own look. My own preference, not found in *LibGuides*, would be to allow the administrator to choose certain features to lock down in order to create a cohesive design for the institution while allowing the guide designers a choice in some of the other aspects of the display.

Overall, *LibGuides* is a highly recommended content management tool for any type of library. Best of all, it is affordable as the cost for most institutions ranges from \$899 to \$2999.

Related links:

Springshare LibGuides (general product information):

<http://www.springshare.com/libguides/index.html>

Springshare Lounge (Discussions, forums, and information for users of Springshare products):

<http://www.springsharelounge.com/>

LibGuides Community (links to guides created by librarians at other institutions):

<http://LibGuides.com/community.php?m=i&ref=community.LibGuides.com>

©2010, L. Sullivan. *Journal of Library Innovation* is an open access journal. Authors retain the copyright to their work under the terms of the following Creative Commons license: Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 3.0 (United States)
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/us/>