

Web Services

Observations and Recommendations for Code #16 - Navigation

Notes and Observations:

- Left navigation bar, for many, is confusing because
 - it seems to be categorized/grouped oddly
 - the "hovering" moves things around making them lose their focus/location
- Often too many clicks to get to a known item/resource (often a favorite index/database like JSTOR, Academic Search Premier, MLA etc., but might be E-reserves etc.).
- Try to provide access to "lower level content" from top page (like Subject Research Guides)
- Consider the feasibility of putting advanced search into the website (instead of/also the IRIS quick search).
- Interface needs to be "refreshed"...more web 2.0 style
- Perhaps create an opening page that looks more clean and research oriented
- that helps answer primary needs like "find an article"
- We recommend putting something like "How do I's" in a pull-down menu... on every page.
- perhaps like the RU Quickfinder <http://www.rutgers.edu/> (a "shades" interface)
- Searchlight should be more prominent...maybe renamed "RUscholar"..."SearchLight" doesn't mean much to students...too clever?!
- Website search: needs to be not a click to a page with search, but more apparent as a box on every page..Probably revealed by a "widget"....perhaps use Google with our site search as branding association.
- Put content into MyRU & SAKAI (go where the users are..at point of need)
- To support resource discovery and usage create a news feature that would feature/high-light a resource, service, or portion-of-the-website (on a rotating basis).
- If applicable for searching lists, use auto-complete (Ajax).
- Guides should be more prominent and drive usage to proper tools, resources
- Perhaps 'generic navigation' would include "universal tools"
e.g. Meebo/AAL, search IRIS, Indexes & Databases, ILL, find articles, citation linker, search website? with sub-sets containing more specific items, i.e. undergrads would have E-reserves. This would carry through for the session...but could be changed back to 'generic' or to a different view like "Faculty" or "alumni"

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