Web Services
Observations and Recommendations for
Code #19R - Research Guides

Recommendations:

For guide creators:

- Support and or pages for each academic department (or reasonable clusters of departments).
- Update existing guides to be more current.
- Provide useful and relevant journal lists.
- Don't just provide lists; provide some guidance on how research is best done in this subject area.

For collection development:

- More JSTOR packages.

Other suggestions for the redesign:

- Monitor the quality of research guides...a special group needs to oversee this.
- "Beginner users" probably need a more elaborate how do I start/begin page/portal/service.
- Investigate if we can make (a portion of) the Serial Solutions journal subject breakdown lists available in the website...for guides etc.?
- On the indexes page perhaps "By Title" might be changed to "By Database Name" so as to not confuse users into thinking that they are going to see a list of Journal or article titles.
- Raise the profile of the Subject Research Guides. Perhaps with a quick-link to subject guides.
- Consider offering digg, delicious, "share" links for RUL resources.
- Perhaps consider supporting personal portals where a user can put all the pages they use most in one place. Start locally with Drupal and look to share/push data to other systems like MyRU, Sakai, & Blackboard.
- Perhaps allow a search to be limited to just guides (maybe also to just database descriptions).
  (Perhaps the search could have a pull-down to limit to a portion of the site.)
- To support resource discovery and usage create a news feature that would feature/high-light resources, service, or portion-of-the-website (on a rotating basis).

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