CampusGuides

About CampusGuides

CampusGuides is a Springshare product designed for use by the entire campus. Authors can be librarians, faculty, staff, and students. Currently Lance and Susan have temporary accounts.

CampusGuides has all the features of LibGuides, plus the following:

- Ability to define "Groups" of guides, i.e. categorize guides into logical groups (Research Guides, Course Guides, Subject Guides, etc).
- Groups can be defined with their own look and feel (banners, headers) and their own homepage.
- There is a 3rd account level in place meant for the basic-level user (faculty, students, staff); they can create and edit their own guides but not those of other users (without explicit permission). This is great for collaboration between librarians and faculty/students when creating and editing guides.
- Optional access restrictions based on IP addresses or IP ranges. The access restrictions can be placed for the entire system, for certain Groups, or for individual guides. Great if you need to limit access to certain content to on-campus users only.
- Email subscription lists for guides. Users can subscribe to updates to individual guides. The guide owner decides when to send an update, and they can include a brief note to the subscribers with every outgoing email.
- Customizable RSS feeds for many types of content in the system.
- Each guide has its own custom <HEAD> section, for adding custom javascript or style sheets for that one guide. You can apply special formatting, or have custom scripts for your guide only, without affecting other guides in the system.
- Guides can be password protected.
- Full discussion board available for each guide.
- Assessment tool (currently in closed beta). Need to collect formal feedback, or quiz/test students? With the assessment tool you can create surveys which can be presented to each guide visitor (either for specific guides or for certain Groups). For example, create information literacy assessment surveys and the system will automatically tally the results.

Questions for CampusGuides:

- How would this work/be used in conjunction with course management software?
- What would it add to the classroom experience that Blackboard or Moodle cannot already do?
- What purpose would it serve?
- What do faculty aides and TAs think about it?
- What level of password protection? Is it page-level or guide-level?
- Can we set up a bunch of guides and groups to test out the features highlighted like the search?
- Would assigning groups help solve some of the naming convention problems we have been having with our current setup?
- If we wanted CampusGuides would we buy it in lieu of LibGuides or in addition to it?

Major LibGuides/CampusGuides update

November 5th, 2009

Last night we updated our production servers with the new code for LibGuides/Campusguides, that we've been working on for the past few months. This was a major code update and it fixed all outstanding bugs, in addition to introducing several important new features:

1. Better (much better) full-text search capability with real relevance-based ranking and search syntax highlighting. In other words, when you perform a search in your system and jump to any of the guides which are listed as search results, the search string will be highlighted on the page. Yeah, it's as cool as it sounds For example, check out http://demo.libguides.com/content.php?pid=33675&sid=249813&search_terms=ProQuest
   and note the search term highlighted in yellow.
2. The ability to search within a guide only. Yes, it's here - finally!
3. Search-and-replace function for admins (when updating many links at once) can now be case-sensitive, if chosen.
4. Several new API functions and performance improvement in API in general (all API functions can be found under the "Widgets & API" tab on the Admin screen.
5. Support for using Syndetics images for book covers in the "Books from the Catalog" option, if your library already subscribes to the Syndetics service.

The features above are available for both LibGuides and CampusGuides (or CommunityGuides, for our non-higher ed clients). We also added several CampusGuides/CommunityGuides - specific new features.

1. Added IP-based authentication rules. Now you can limit access to the whole system, or to certain Groups, or to individual guides, based on IP addresses for the visitors. This is a major, major new feature for CampusGuides.
2. Added user-based authentication. At the option of the system administrator, access to the entire system can be limited to users who have an account. In other words, to access anything you would have to have an account in CampusGuides. This is an ideal situation for staff-only or intranet-based usage scenarios, where only people who have an account in the system should be able to access content. Another major new functionality for the system.
3. We added Group homepage links to the main CampusGuides homepage.

As always, we'd like to thank our Community for the great ideas - most of the new features in our systems come as a direct result of customer input and suggestions. So, keep up the good work, and we'll do our part to make these into reality. We're here if any questions pop up - support@springshare.com