ask this librarian

Integrating Library Tools into the Online Learning Environment

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What Makes Up the Widget?

- LMS (2 options)
- Chat Widget
- Custom Links
- Search Boxes
The LMS's

Moodle

JICS
LibraryH3lp

- Customizable
- Multiple simultaneous librarians logged-in
- Saves transcripts
- Tracks usage
The Custom Links

Faculty selects the subject discipline

HTML code is generated

**SUBJECT WIDGETS**

Build your Widget

Pick the subject area that best matches the focus of your class:

1. Choose a Subject Area
2. Choose a Subject Area

- African American Studies
- Architecture
- Art & Art History
- Business & Economics
- Chicago
- Company Information
- Dance
- Dance/Movement Therapy
- Education
- Fashion
- Film & Video
- GLBT Studies
- Gender Studies
- General Research
- Government & Law
- Graphic Design
- Health & Medical
- History
- Journalism

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Login to Moodle and open the course you want to edit.
2. Click the Turn Editing On button.
3. On the right side of the page, find the Blocks pull-down menu and select HTML.
4. You should see a new block on your course page with the title (new HTML block).
5. Click on the Configuration icon.
6. Click on the Toggle HTML Source button.
7. Copy the code from the box below and paste it into the Configuration text box and Save Changes.

```html
<href=http://libguides.colum.edu/archhistory target=_blank>R=esearch Guide</a><br />
<a href=http://www.lib.colum.edu/help/tips.php target=_blank>Research Tips</a>
```
The Search Boxes

Catalog Search Box

Database Search Box
The Nitty-Gritty

Background & Technology
Funded through a local Technology Fellowship

First phase in 2007 - widget included:
- Links to Ask a Librarian service
- Links to general subject research guides

Pilot with 5 first-year writing courses found:
- Classes with broad assignment topics were not ideal
- Need to target upper-level courses with a structured research assignment
Widget Makeover

- Expanded options:
  - Chat
  - Search boxes
  - Course specific links
- Allow faculty to select options
Selection Forms
(the front-end)

Walk through the widget creation process:
Selection Form
(the back-end)

Separate forms for Moodle and Oasis

- PHP scripts
- Hosted locally

Scripts available

- Build a widget form: http://snipt.org/Lvn
- Code output page: http://snipt.org/Lwg
If You Build it...

Implementation, Evaluation & Marketing
Course Guides

Identified potential course partners
- ✔ Previous instruction sessions
- ✔ Strong research component
- ✔ Multiple sections (control groups)
- ✔ Routinely offered courses

The seduction...
- ✔ Offer the pilot project
- ✔ Sell the benefit to students
- ✔ Emphasis on painless for Faculty
- ✔ Include assessment in pitch
Soliciting partners – identifying courses, establishing timeline, minimizing work for faculty

Four Pilot Courses

- Television – Learning Community Hub
  http://libguides.colum.edu/LChub

- Music – Introduction to Black Music
  http://libguides.colum.edu/introtoblackmusic

- Art History – Art Since 1945
  http://libguides.colum.edu/artsince1945

- Theater – Theater History & Inquiry
  http://libguides.colum.edu/theaterhistoryinquiry
Faculty Responses

(they liked it)

“This is the GREATEST THING EVER!”

“Holy smacknoly this is excellent. I was going to walk them through the Library site on Wednesday and do the 'here's how you go hunting' show. Now all I have to do is have them link to this site and the whole shebang is set up for them. And they can chat too. Crazy. Thanks. A lot.”

“Thanks so much for a great research session on Friday. I appreciated the effort you made to design a session that actively involved the students and that gave them an opportunity to use the sources you were highlighting. I'm sure that the session was of great value to them. I think you've put together a very high quality course/research guide for this class. Thanks so much.”

“I finally sat down to take a look at this and embed it in the page, now that my very crazy first week of classes is over and all I can say is, WOW. This is so great and so much more than I expected! ...Thank you!!!!”
Student Responses
(they liked the course guides and chat)

Example Chat Transcript (emphasis added)

10:04 Guest: my precious librarian do you have the book THE FIGARO TRILOGY by beaumarchais?
10:05 Librarian: I can take a look, hang on please.
10:06 Guest: thank you dear
10:07 Guest: *i love this cool system...*
10:07 Librarian: it is lovely, isn't it...
10:08 Guest: *im so excited to use this system this year*
10:08 Guest: it is going to help me find so much wonderful information in seconds!
10:09 Librarian: glad you like it, I'll let my boss know!
10:09 Librarian: We do have the Marriage of Figaro - a few copies actually.
10:09 Librarian: The call number is: 842.5 B378m - that will be on the 5th floor of the library
10:09 Librarian: anything else I can help with?
10:10 Guest: i think thats all
10:10 Guest: thank you very much
10:10 Guest: have a good day librarian!
10:10 Librarian: you too! bye.

Other Student Comments

“Thank you so much!”

“Thanks for your awesome work!”

“Thank you so much this helped a ton!”

“Great, this is going to be really helpful. Thank you!”
How would you rate your research skills?

- Fairly Good: 78%
- Fairly Bad: 10%
- Terrible: 1%
- Excellent: 11%
More Evaluation

In future studies, we suggest the following changes to the student survey structure:

- Gear the survey questions more specifically to course assignments.
- Formally schedule each survey session.
- Arrange with instructors to provide incentives or require students to take the surveys.
Marketing the Widgets

- Rotating banner on Library Website
- Postcard to give to Faculty - in-person or via liaisons
- The Science Fair
- In tandem with instruction sessions
Marketing the Widgets
Questions?

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