

# Importance of Library Resource Guide and Role of the Librarian

Ruchi Jain <sup>1</sup>; Sandeep Kumar Pathak <sup>2</sup>

Library Professional Trainee, Central Library, IISER Bhopal – 462066<sup>1</sup>;

Dy. Librarian, Central Library, IISER Bhopal – 462066<sup>2</sup>

[ruchijainblib@gmail.com](mailto:ruchijainblib@gmail.com)<sup>1</sup>; [skpathak@iiserb.ac.in](mailto:skpathak@iiserb.ac.in)<sup>2</sup>

## ABSTRACT

*This article overview the available open source options available for academic libraries for updating and maintaining pathfinders such as resource guide. The IISER Bhopal Library has developed and implemented SubjectPlus open source tool to manage contents of our library website to meet the web page publishing and site management needs of an academic library. Purpose of this paper is to discuss about resources guide and its implementation at IISER Bhopal Library. Customizing the SubjectPlus is being done on the basis of the requirements of an academic library environment and its services. Implementation of open source library oriented SubjectPlus open the door to academic librarians to provide enhanced information services at single interface. This article also gives the overview of the functionality of the LibData, Library a la Carte.*

**Keywords:** Resource guide, Information Resources, Library Services, SubjectPlus, IISER Bhopal

## INTRODUCTION

Resource guide will provide users the quality resources available in the library and on the web. These guides have been created and updated by the professionals and trained library staff. Resources covered includes print/non-print and electronic, subscribed and freely available on the web. These resource guides useful to academic community in support of their academic, research and professional work. These guides have been designed to assist users with accessing a range of resources within library or on the web and developing their research skills.<sup>1</sup>

Resource Guide provides access to useful resources and information as followings:

- Table of Content
- Bibliographic Databases
- Thesis and Dissertations
- Patents Database

- Subject Gateway
- News Letters
- Newspapers
- OPAC
- Tutorials/Webinars
- Discussion Forum
- Primo Search
- Reference Styles
- Webinars
- Find a Bookshop
- Tutorials
- Endnote Guide
- New to the Library
- Scholarly Search Engines
- Conference Proceedings
- Research Funding Agencies
- Fellowship and Scholarship
- Image Sources
- Professional Bodies
- You Tube Lectures
- Award
- Reference documents like  
Encyclopedias, Dictionaries,  
Atlas, Gazetteers, Annuals etc.
- Social Networks
- Books/eBooks
- Journal Articles Online and Offline
- Archives

Now libraries are maintaining resource guide in different way like as library guides, library pathfinders, way guides, bibliographies, subject guide, research guide, web guide, online tutorials, online guide etc.. Librarians have a long-standing relationship with subject guides. Since the introduction of subject-specific research guides in the 1950s (Vileno, 2007), the work of defining subjects, selecting resources that will be included, and creating the guides has been time-consuming and often unappreciated<sup>2</sup>. The addition of electronic resources, which frequently change, has made creating and reviewing subject guides even more challenging. While Web-based subject guides have significantly improved access, static Web pages limit who can update guides and do not lessen the amount of time spent creating and updating. Hence the library resource guides provides key databases and resources relevant to your subject interest and also fulfill different types of user requirement/queries<sup>3</sup>

### **Following are the objectives of library resource guide**

- To make user awareness about library resource
- To provide better service for our library users
- To make sure what new in library so that user always keep in touch with library
- To save the time of library users
- To provide course related hands on practices videos/tutorial for our users
- To maximum utilization of library resource and also fulfill the five laws of library science
- To get user satisfaction

### **Need of Library Resource Guide**

Due to variety of documents/information resources are available in central library or over internet, and these information resources scattered in various forms and format on a particular subject. So efforts were to make accessibility at single platform for an academic community at IISER Bhopal campus.

### **IISER Bhopal**

Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) were created in 2006 through a proclamation of Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, to promote quality education and research in basic sciences. Soon after the announcement, two of these Institutes at Pune and Kolkata, respectively, were started in 2006. This was followed by an Institute at Mohali (2007) and at Bhopal and Trivandrum in 2008. Each IISER is a degree granting autonomous institution with a prime focus to integrate science education and research, with a motive of attracting bright students and world class faculty.

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal providing a platform for the faculty to engage in high quality pedagogy, at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and to perform cutting edge research in frontier areas of basic sciences. The Institute is also committed to impart high moral and ethical values to students and create a genuine concern for social and

environmental issues. With these set of broad objectives, it is believed that IISER Bhopal will emerge as a world-class Institute within a few years of its inception.<sup>4</sup>

### **Central Library IISER Bhopal**

Central Library, IISER Bhopal a very special place in the IISER Campus with its rich collection of books and journals in the field of Basic Sciences and related areas. Currently houses around 8500 books comprises of collection includes textbooks for the BS-MS and Ph.D. curriculum in Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Mathematics, Physics, Humanities and Social Sciences. Library collection also includes documents in Computer Science, History of Science, light reading materials, Fictions, Stories, General books, Encyclopaedias and Dictionaries, Magazines etc. Research books & Monographs are also included in the collection for labs & research purpose.

Library is committed to providing widest possible access to information and this commitment is reflected in the range of services provided by it. Library website is linked to various online databases that are available from any

networked PC within the library and the Institute. The Library spares no efforts to fulfil its mission by selecting, acquiring, organizing, reserving, maintaining, and providing access to a collection of materials and electronic resources that address the needs of the academic community.

On-line access to full text as well as bibliographic databases is being subscribed to facilitate research & teaching. Library currently subscribe to more than 15000 e-journals. Library operations are automated using KOHA Library Management Software. Central Library is now fully automated with all possible modern facilities. Web-OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue) is accessible at URL: <http://webopac.iiserb.ac.in/>.<sup>5</sup>

## **HOW TO CREATE AND MANAGE LIBRARY RESOURCE GUIDE**

There are many open source platforms are available for maintenance of resource guide these are SubjectPlus, LibData, Library Course Builder, Library a la Carte etc. These web based applications, while performing some similar task, can vary in functionality and underlying complexity. Most of these applications require a scripting language such as Perl or PHP and a relational database such as MySQL.

### **SubjectPlus**

It is a free and open source tool to manage several interrelated part of our library resource. SubjectPlus sprang from the Ioins (more or less) of pirate source, developed by the Joyner library at East Carolina University. It became abandonware, and with permission, an expanded version of this original software was open sourced and rename SubjectPlus. Development was undertaken at the Ithaka College Library and now the University of Miami Libraries.

#### **Features:-**

Create Guide: Create unlimited research guide via drag n drop interface.

Staff List: Sorted by department, by librarian

Database List: A-Z by format, by Subject

FAQs: Store FAQs in one handy place, integrated them anywhere via API

Suggestion Box: Easy way to display patron comments

Responsive Design: Looks better on tablets and mobile devices

Installer/Updater: Makes running and managing SP simpler

Customizable: Have complete control add own header and footers, tweak the layout and CSS, add data via API

Requirements in brief: Web server with MySQL (> 4.1) and PHP (> 5, preferably >=5.2) and permission to create a new MySQL databases. The administration backend requires JavaScripts to work properly<sup>6</sup>.

## **LibData**

The University of Minnesota Libraries developed LibData, a data repository built with open source technologies. Consisting of approximately 40 relational tables, LibData contains resources, subjects, information types, staff, libraries, library services, and numerous other entities, and enables extensive and rich relationships between them. Moving beyond simple data-entry forms, LibData provides multiple authoring mechanisms allowing these entities to be pulled together in various ways to meet identified information delivery needs.<sup>7</sup>

## **Library a la Carte**

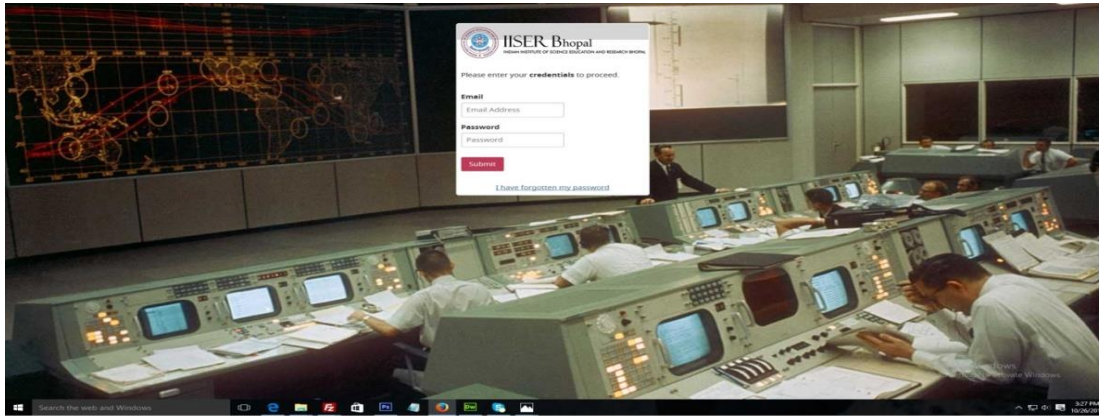
An open source content management system developed specially for libraries by librarians and programmers at Oregon State University and Press under the GNU Affero General Public License. It is currently on its eighth incarnation (with version 1.6 being the latest one) and is continuing to develop. Library a la carte enables librarians to easily and quickly create dynamic web pages that integrate web 2.0 features, such as RSS feed, chat search engines, finding guides with traditional library content such as catalogue and article databases. Features such as chat mean that patrons can interact directly with the librarians without ever having to go into the physical library and can also provide more user-friendly environment by giving them an opportunity to talk to a real person.<sup>8</sup>

## **CHALLENGES FOR LIBRARIANS**

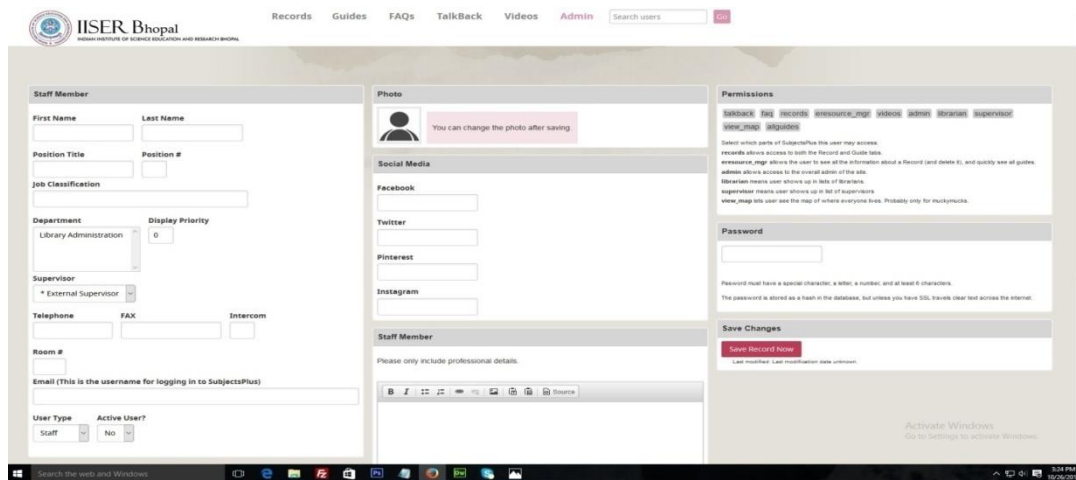
The Library resource guide is a mirror of a library and for correct reflection of that mirror, it is mandatory to prepare a resource guide intelligently. To proceed that work accurately, the Librarian should have to face challenges like knowledge about each and every resource available in the library and on the web as to prepare understandable guidelines for their proper utilization. Librarians have to always be aware about the latest resources and their features. The Librarian also needs to analyze different types of user needs and accordingly changes should be done. Knowledge about different types of search techniques and to build it in resource guide is expected from the Librarian. Timely updation for providing authentic and latest information to users is also the responsibility of a Librarian. Layout and design should be attracting the users to use available resources in the library and ability to resolve any problem quickly. It should keep the flexibility to manage library resources and their services on a regular basis. Librarian should be aware with the latest research and publications and add into their respective library resources. By keeping in view these essentials, assessment of user feedback on time to time basis also a major activity to get completed the task and if it is unsatisfactory so it should be done according to the user requirements. Librarian need to modify the library resource guide and for making it more valuable include search specific information for providing many trusted links to the library users.

## **FOLLOWINGS ARE AMONG FEW INDIAN AND FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES/INSTITUTIONS HAVE IMPLEMENTED LIBRARY RESOURCE GUIDE**

# 1. Resource Guide, Central Library, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Bhopal



(Screenshot-1)



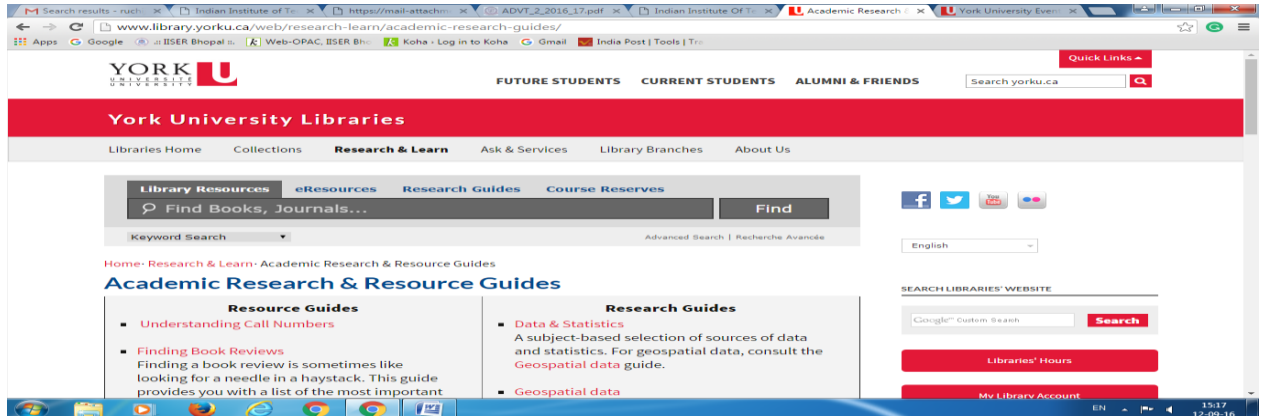
(Screenshot-2)

# 2. Resource Guide, Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar Library

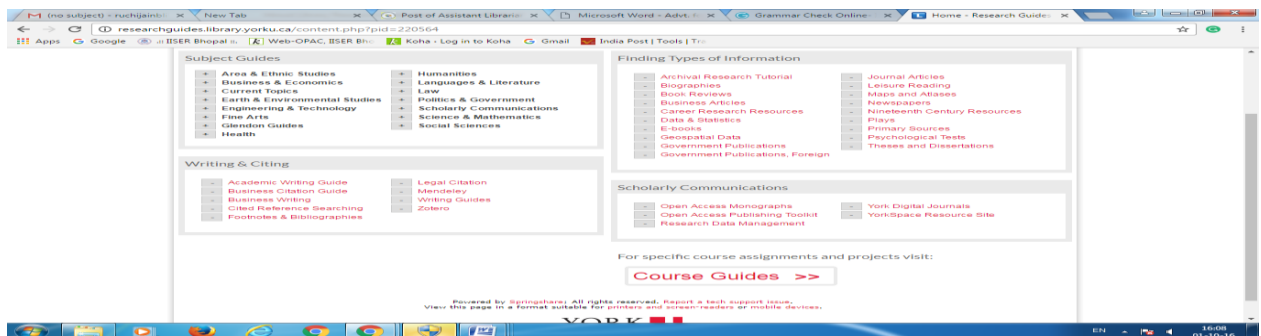


(Screenshot-3)

### 3. Resource Guide, York University Library

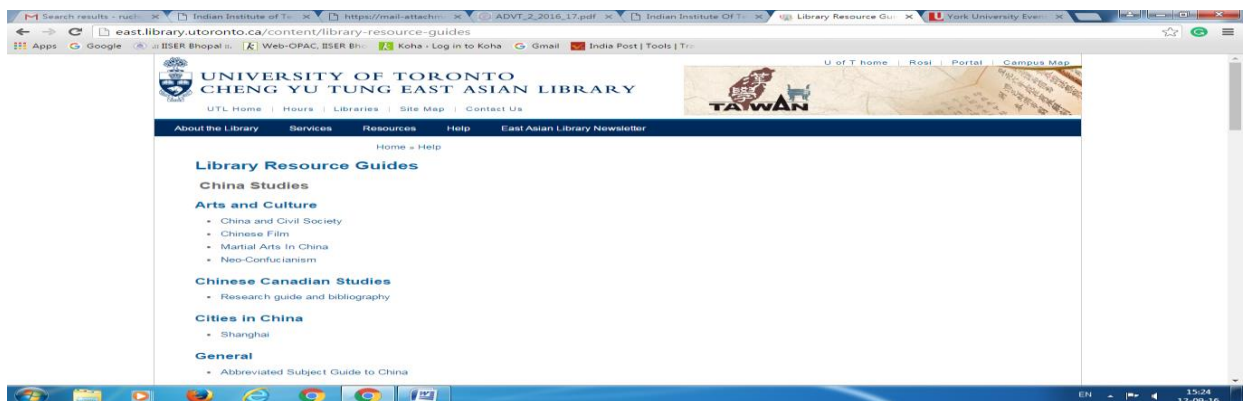


(Screenshot-4)



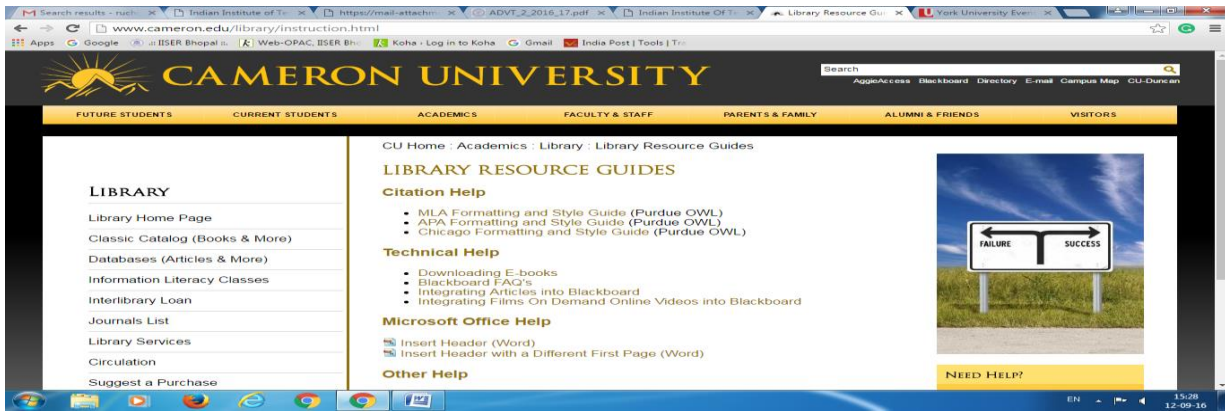
(Screenshot-5)

### 4. Library Resource Guide, University of Toronto Cheng Tung East Asian



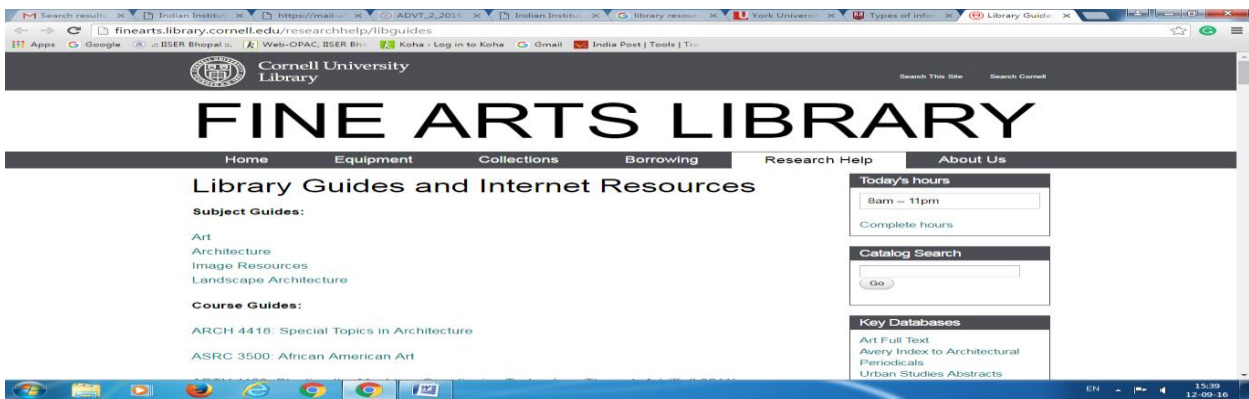
(Screenshot-6)

## 5. Library Resource Guide, Cameron University



(Screenshot-7)

## 6. Library Guide, Cornell University



(Screenshot-8)

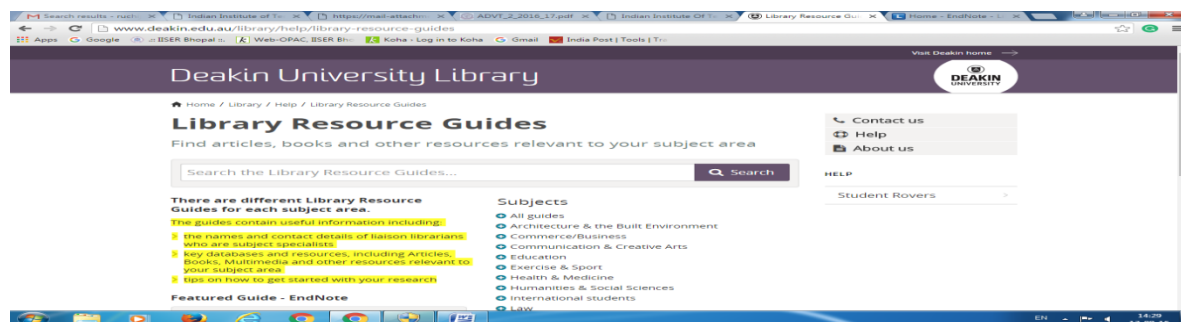
## 7. Library Resource Guide, Charles Strut University



(Screenshot-9)



## 8. Library Resource Guide, Deakin University



(Screenshot-10)

## CONCLUSION

Librarians who have been considering a content management system have a wealth of choices that encompass many different levels of knowledge. The library need to actively integrate all the library resource and resources available on the web shall be accessible through a single platform. To achieve this goal, library needs to have content management software to organize these resources in a systematic manner. There are many open sources platform available that are SubjectPlus, LibData, Library a la Carte etc. IISER Bhopal use Subject Plus open source platform for making resource guide of Central Library. IISER Bhopal has used static HTML, database-driven subject guides, and web 2.0 technologies to create web based library resource guide. Each of these approaches has merit and individual libraries may find some approaches better suited to them than others. Librarians who are going to be creating and maintain these library resource guides will need to work closely with skilled staffs that are responsible for installing and maintaining the software.

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