Mindful Librarianship: Using LibGuides to Meet Information Needs In the Moment

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The Buddhist concept of Mindfulness means focusing all mental attention to the task at hand, in the moment. Mindfulness practice involves cultivating focus, attention, and awareness. In daily life, the practice also encourages simplicity, trust, and generosity.

LibGuides is a library content management system which enables librarians to create and manage content to meet the needs of library users and researchers in the present moment.

The Springshare LibGuides platform facilitates the practice of Mindful Librarianship in the following ways:

**Focused Attention**
In a context of reduced budgets, reduced staff, and reduced time, we need to focus on providing services efficiently and effectively when and where they are needed. LibGuides frees us up to adopt a “beginner’s mind” and with attention and awareness, meet user needs in the moment.

**Simplicity**
Out of the box, turnkey operation allows librarians to quickly and easily post dynamic and high-quality content in an attractive and user-friendly format. Tabs and boxes help us to categorize and organize our information. By keeping it simple, we can improve learning, promote acquisition of new skills, and prevent information overload/technostress.

**Presence**
Social networking tools/capabilities available in LibGuides — easy embedding of live chat and instant messaging clients, Twitter and Facebook integration, and mobile-ready formatting — allow us to be where users are online. We must be present in order to help!

**Trust**
Quick and easy editing tools ensure our content is high quality and fresh — thereby encouraging trust in the integrity of information we provide. Link Checker keeps lists of web resources up-to-date and useful.

**Generosity**
Springshare promotes generosity by facilitating the sharing of good ideas and quality work. The Springshare Community site promotes open access to LibGuides produced in many types of libraries. The ability to share templates and content with colleagues helps us to grow professionally and provide better service to library users.

Learn more at http://libguides.wcsu.edu/mindful