Web Development Group 6/09/09
Present: Boyd, Candido, Cantrell, Dixon, Juhl, Lennertz Jetton, Morgan, Nutt, Walker
Guests: Daniels, Jones, Kirkwood, McKee, Parker-Gibson, Salisbury
Action items in yellow.

1. Minutes from 4/28/09 meeting
   approved silently

2. Public Courses (“Open Sessions”)
   Juhl welcomed the teaching librarians present and asked about the “sign up” function that Morgan is currently adding to the courses offered on the Instruction page.
   After some discussion, the group decided that First Name, Last Name, and email address (any email, not just UARK email addresses) would be required, with Status and Department would also be available as optional fields. Librarians will be able to email those who have signed up for a class, view a class roster, etc.

3. LibGuides and Subject Portal Pages
   Juhl opened discussion on the priorities for updating and expanding the resources by subject pages on the web site. The group reviewed the LibGuides product (http://www.springshare.com/libguides/) and discussed the benefits of such an approach.

Elements that those present liked about LibGuides included:
- tabs for resource categories (though not too close to the top of the screen)
- ability to post news and quick tips dynamically
- ability to incorporate links to other library pages and college departments
- ability to incorporate links to related subject guides
- librarian contact info and picture, schedule an appointment with a librarian
- chat widget
- facebook and other widgets
- social bookmarking
- opportunities for collaboration with other libraries

Elements that those present did not particularly like included:
- busy screen – TMI!
- wasted space in middle on some examples; eye flick studies would show that left panel needs more emphasis
- surveys not a high priority
- how much training / support would be needed; how much work for the librarians

In addition, the following suggestions were made concerning the current subject pages:
- too many clicks to get to resources
- need to be able to sort categories / types of resources
- would like librarian pictures, profiles more prominent
- need to have a better search function for databases (“eric”)
- would like to be able to create course-specific pages as needed
- links to other content (videos, departments, etc.)
- social bookmarking

Candido asked an excellent question about how much of the LibGuides functionality we could get from our current structure. Juhl reported that some elements, like tabs and profiles, would be easy to do. Others, such as blog-type news flashes, would be much more difficult.

Juhl also asked about functions like a search box for all or selected Ebsco products. This may be a feature to try out on selected web pages.

The group decided to start a trial of LibGuides (librarians can sign up for individual demo passwords) and to reassemble about July 1st to discuss. Juhl will, in the meantime, try to make some of the
suggested improvements on the local site.

4. Usability Survey
Juhl and Lenertz Jetton asked if group members had an opportunity to study the report. They asked what other analyses needed to be done and when the report should be submitted to administration.

**Group members will study the report for the next meeting.**

5. Special Collections redesign
Juhl, Nutt, and Morgan reported on progress in this area. Juhl described the "iterative" design process. The design has been accepted (for the most part) though Special Collections staff have a few suggestions as to navigation elements. Nutt is working with Juhl on the accessions database while he is working with Morgan on EAD.

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 23rd at 11am in room 472B.

Respectfully submitted,
B. Juhl 12oz!