

Creating a Database Selection Aid with LibWizard

The database selection aid in a Sport Management LibGuide:

<https://guides.emich.edu/c.php?g=227993&p=9650542>

Planning

- It helps to write out the “decision tree” for the entire tool before starting to build it.
 - Plan out questions, responses, and recommended databases.
 - You can do this using a spreadsheet, online flowchart program, or other methods.
- Suggestions (not rules) for planning your database selection aid:
 - No more than 5 answers to a question.
 - No “path” through the decision tree with more than 3 questions.
 - “None of the above” options (they can point to your institution’s general search tools, or tools like Google Scholar).
 - 2-3 database suggestions at each “endpoint” of the decision tree.

Entering Questions and Databases in LibWizard

- Use the “Radios” item to create the questions, and “Text Block” item for the database suggestions.
- Stick to a naming convention for each question or text block you add.
 - For example: **Name things after the series of clicks that leads to it:**
 - *History > U.S. HISTORY* suggests databases for American history.
- **Every** item, except for the very first question, must be marked **Hidden**.
- Put your email, your library’s appointment scheduler, or other contact information at each “endpoint,” after the database suggestions.

Telling Your Selector What to Show and When

- The behavior of the selector is driven by **rules** (select the “Field Rules” button when editing the form in LibWizard)

- Setting up the rules is easiest if you create them in the order that things appear on your written plan/decision tree.
- If you change a possible response that you had added to a rule, it **disappears** from the rule and you must add it again.

Visual Style

- To remove the title from the LibWizard form (because the title is already on your LibGuide box):
 - Settings > Page Header.
 - Select “Use a custom page header for this form.”
 - Make sure the “Form Header Text” field is blank and click “Save.”
- To disguise the Submit button (because the recommendations disappear after someone clicks “Submit”):
 - Settings > Look & Feel.
 - Under the “Form Label” section:
 - Type a space in the “Submit Button Label” field and click “Save.”
- By default, the font size in a LibWizard text block (where you have the database suggestions) may not be the same as your LibGuides.
 - When editing the text in a text block, you can set the font size.

One Last Detail

- Consider keeping the full database list in your guide, on a separate page.
 - If a student *knows* the database they want and just needs the link, a list is easier to use.
 - LibGuide’s link-checking tool cannot check links in embedded items like LibWizard forms. You might want to keep the full list, knowing that a broken link there might also need updating in your selection aid.

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