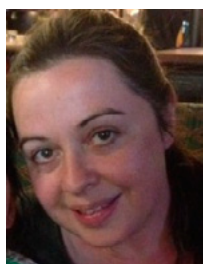


Development of an Academic Integrity LibGuide

Experiences at University College Dublin



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Introduction

University College Dublin (UCD) has approximately 33,500 students (23,300 undergraduates, 10,200 graduate and PhD students). There are 1,520 academic staff (or faculty) and 1,700 support staff. The 132 hectare main campus is located four kilometres from Dublin City Centre. This campus has four libraries, the largest being the James Joyce Library. The fifth library is situated in the UCD Michael Smurfit Business School.

In spring 2013 UCD Library implemented LibGuides. These are a content management system provided on a subscription basis by Springshare. In UCD Library we use LibGuides for the creation and management of content. Staff have various levels of control and access to the guides. They provide an easily accessible format for librarians to create and edit content with a basic level of ongoing training. Materials offered on our LibGuides are generally teaching support information such as subject guides, eLearning tutorials, research support, bibliometric support, theses information, to name a few.

This article describes the creation of our Academic Integrity LibGuide, which provides teaching support materials on correct citation, referencing and avoiding plagiarism for students in UCD.

Decision to create a LibGuide on referencing, citation and avoiding plagiarism

Our initial set of LibGuides proved to be popular with the student cohort. There were 14,230 page views in the first semester of the academic year 2013–14 for the suite of LibGuides available at that time.

This popularity prompted us to review the teaching supports for referencing, citation and avoiding plagiarism in other libraries that use LibGuides, with a view to implementation in UCD Library. We found a substantial number of libraries had used the LibGuides for this information to good effect (see references below). Our referencing and citation pages were among the most popular on the library website. The Harvard guide was consistently one of the most used pages on the site. Similarly, our desk and liaison librarian teams received regular queries from students on how to reference and cite correctly for a multitude of styles.

Based on the review and the popularity of the information already available on these topics, the decision was made to migrate all our referencing, citation, and avoiding plagiarism materials to one all-encompassing LibGuide. A team of three library staff members worked on the content (Jenny Collery, Dr Nessa Collinge and Maolsheachlann O'Ceallaigh).

What we included in our citing and referencing guide

We decided to create a LibGuide that would include each of the five main reference styles used at UCD library – the American Psychological Association, Chicago, Harvard, Modern Languages Association and Vancouver styles. We also decided to include a tutorial on each of the five styles, a printable version of each style guide, our Articulate tutorial on avoiding plagiarism in both the English and Irish languages, a range of pages giving tips and advice on academic writing, the University Plagiarism Policy and the preferred citation style for each school in the university. A key concern was to include as many reference types as possible, particularly the newer ones such as Tweets, Facebook posts, Blogs and student group work.

In an attempt to make the concepts as accessible as possible, we felt it was important to state clearly what both concepts (reference and citation) mean and to give an example of how to quote in each citation style.

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Choosing a title and logo for the LibGuide

We named the guide the 'Academic integrity guide'. This was seen as more positive than titles that have traditionally emphasised the negative connotations of plagiarism. In 2016 the UCD Academic Writing centre requested that we help students find the guide more easily by putting a direct link to it from the library's main website. This was done, with the plain language title 'Referencing guide' on the link.

We chose an umbrella logo for the landing page of our guide. This aims to show that academic integrity is achieved through the combination of acknowledging others' ideas, clear writing and correct referencing.



Umbrella logo

Structure of the LibGuide

We took time planning the structure of the guide, particularly the pages dedicated to each of the citation styles. We created one tabbed page for each citation style, with drop-down subpages dedicated to each reference type. Each of the five referencing style guides can be printed individually. The guide's format may be reviewed in the future, depending on feedback from students and staff.

Creation of the LibGuide

Once the structure of the LibGuide was decided, our next task was to begin creating content. It was agreed that we would attempt to use one source for each style as the ultimate guide. If no official handbook existed for that style we would pick either a book on the style or a heavily cited online source. The guide creation process involved each person taking one or two styles and creating the content. A different member of the team then edited the content. This approach worked well. To ensure consistent quality throughout, we met every few weeks to monitor progress and to discuss any edits that were not clear-cut. We began in the spring of 2015 and the guides were launched in August 2015, in time for the start of term.

Promotion and use of the LibGuide

After the launch, we promoted the guide via the library website, Twitter, Facebook, library orientation and information skills sessions. Statistics for the guide indicate a high level of usage, with it consistently being one of the first, second or third most used Library Guides on our website. The table shows the number of views per month since the launch.

The guide has had a total of 114,057 views from August 2015 to November 2016. The library's second most popular guide, the maps guide, has had 84,592 views over the same period.

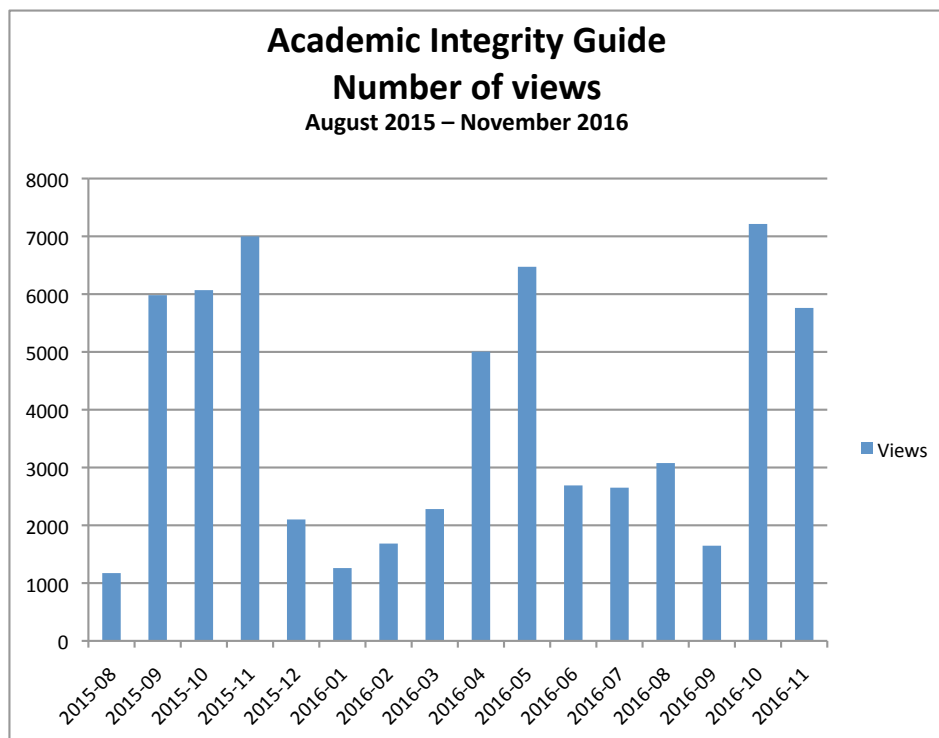
Predictably, October, November, April and May are very busy months for the guide, when students are working on submitting their academic assignments.

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Academic Integrity Guide, monthly number of views. August 2015 – November 2016

The Harvard Style continues to be the most consulted citation style guide. Some of the feedback from students include comments such as I wish we had this in website in first year.

Finally, somewhere I can go to get a proper answer on using Harvard. LibGuides can be embedded into Blackboard, the university's virtual learning environment. To date, the library has run three training sessions on how to do this. There has been a moderate level of attendance from academic staff. Staff who attended seemed keen to include the guide in their teaching modules. This could be promoted further within the academic community.

The LibGuides platform makes guides easily editable and adaptable. We are still adding item types as requested by students or staff. Recently we have added a page on 'Taking lecture notes', and are currently updating the Modern Languages Association Style to the eighth edition.

Conclusion

Overall, we have found the creation of the guide to be a beneficial exercise. It has increased the impact of our referencing, citation and avoiding plagiarism teaching supports and allowed us to keep up to date with the needs of students for this information. We took the opportunity to review and increase the teaching supports we make available to students in the area of citing and referencing. The guide also demonstrated how much students needed guidance on each reference type, for each style. We shall continue to develop and promote the guide to both our students and academic staff and monitor usage statistics.

Our guide can be viewed at <http://libguides.ucd.ie/academicintegrity>

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