**Notes from ELWoG Consultation on Course Guides: February 8, 2012**

**Summary of points:**

* Create list for librarians containing locations to which content can be pushed
* Consider better mechanisms for sharing of content for course-related guides
* Provide further training on how to integrate various types of media into libguides environment (video, comment/discussion functionality)
* Consider mechanisms to allow for standardized logins for some content in libguides environment
* Consider better mechanisms for displaying lists of course-related guides. For example, by discipline, nature of assignment (e.g. lit reviews by area)
* Better integration of course-related guides (links) within existing subject guides
* Better exposure of video content
* Provide further professional development opportunities that include best practices for designing videos, training on software (e.g. Captivate)
* Information on and professional development opportunities for designing and creating content that addresses various accessibility issues (physical challenges, learning styles)
* Consideration of platforms that will support librarian-student interaction in online environment (discussion boards, Q/A forums, knowledge bases, Adobe Connect, Skype)

**Moodle Integration:**

* need to provide multiple access points: give students what they need in many places
* be aware that Moodle sites are closed communities... link out to library guides from within Moodle so that they are generally available
* use of Moodle may reflect disciplinary differences

**Libguides:**

* providing standardized framework for libguides doesn’t necessarily work for course guides
* ideal as an environment because they are open (vs. Moodle)
* provide a good platform for sharing content... can integrate work of other creators and raise standards
* problem with design is that you can only go 2 levels deep... can be difficult to use for delivery of complex content
* must avoid temptation to duplicate what is already in subject guides
* WordPress possibly good environment (*although it was noted that libguides doesn’t accept video content easily, this isn’t actually true if content is coming from a site like YouTube*)
* Can’t add Google calendar into profile (*is this really an issue for many?*)
* course guides can get too text-heavy... how to parse it out and make it ‘edible’ online
* arrangement of course guides in libguide environment not well-done... should be clustered by discipline or type of assignment
* Q: how are people linking to course guides?
* investigate being able to allow comments in libguides (*it does allow this... see* [*http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/content.php?pid=239475&sid=f*](http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/content.php?pid=239475&sid=f) *for a not terribly well executed example*)
* need more ubiquitous access to guides so they can be edited by others where appropriate
* need to consider how content in course guides shared amongst librarians all teaching same course
* would like more freedom to adjust format, template for complex courses.
* need process for sharing content to facilitate replication in many spots
* build and cluster course guides around similar assignments (e.g. lit review for humanities, lit review for science, etc.)
* consider how to articulate connections between course assignments
* need to better encourage listing of related course guides from within related subject guides
* all content must be accessible via Moodle; all content should be open to all community members

**Distance Learning:**

* need to expose video content better through various mechanisms
* Desire to develop but there are certain problems:
  + need training on technicalities of software
  + need training on best practices
  + need a template of “how to proceed”
  + need a central bank of people willing to do voice-over work
* more push for OCUL-level support for videos for common resources (I believe this is being discussed at OCUL-level)
* consideration of XtraNormal and other types of resources
* need to be cognizant of accessibility issues: different learning styles and physical challenges
* Adobe Connect might provide a good platform for librarian interaction with students.  Also perhaps Skype.
* more integration into Moodle: videos, tutorials, Q/A forums (for librarians and students)
* Develop a knowledge base of questions