



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

**Geosciences Librarianship 101
Affordability of Course Materials**

Daniel S. Dotson

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Overview

- About Me & My Departments
- Why do this?
- Big Giant Spreadsheets
- Big Ol' LibGuides Project
- Syllabi Review



About me:

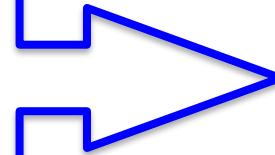
- Bachelors & Masters degrees in Mathematics.
- Masters and Specialist degrees in Library and Information science.
- At The Ohio State University since 2004.
- Added geosciences responsibilities in 2015 previous liaison retired.





My departments

- **Civil, Environmental and Geodetic Engineering (2004)**
- **School of Earth Science (2015)**
 - **Includes Geodetic Science**
- **Geography (2015)**
 - **Includes Atmospheric Science**



GEO
implications

- Computer Science & Engineering (2004)
- Mathematics (2004)
- Statistics(2004)



Why is course materials affordability an issue?

1041% cost increase 1977-2015.

-NBC News

Average student spends \$1200 per year on books/supplies.

-USA Today

50% of students who delayed buying textbooks because of high prices saw their grades suffer as a result.

-Inside Higher Ed

Average new textbook cost
2011-2012: \$58
2015-2016: \$80

-National Association of College Stores

Consumer Price Index 1998-2016
Everything: 48%
Recreational Books: -4.2%
College Textbooks: 181%

-American Enterprise Institute

30% of students use financial aid to pay for textbooks.

-Student PIRGs



What can libraries do to help with course content?

Traditional

- Course reserves
- Item checkout (for items not on reserve)

More Recent, But Similar

- E-Reserves
- E-books
- Streaming Media
- Electronic journals

More Recent + More Radical

- Open Education Resources (OERs)
- Campus affordability initiatives
- Librarian consultations on affordability



This librarian's path from passive to active efforts

React to
direct
requests

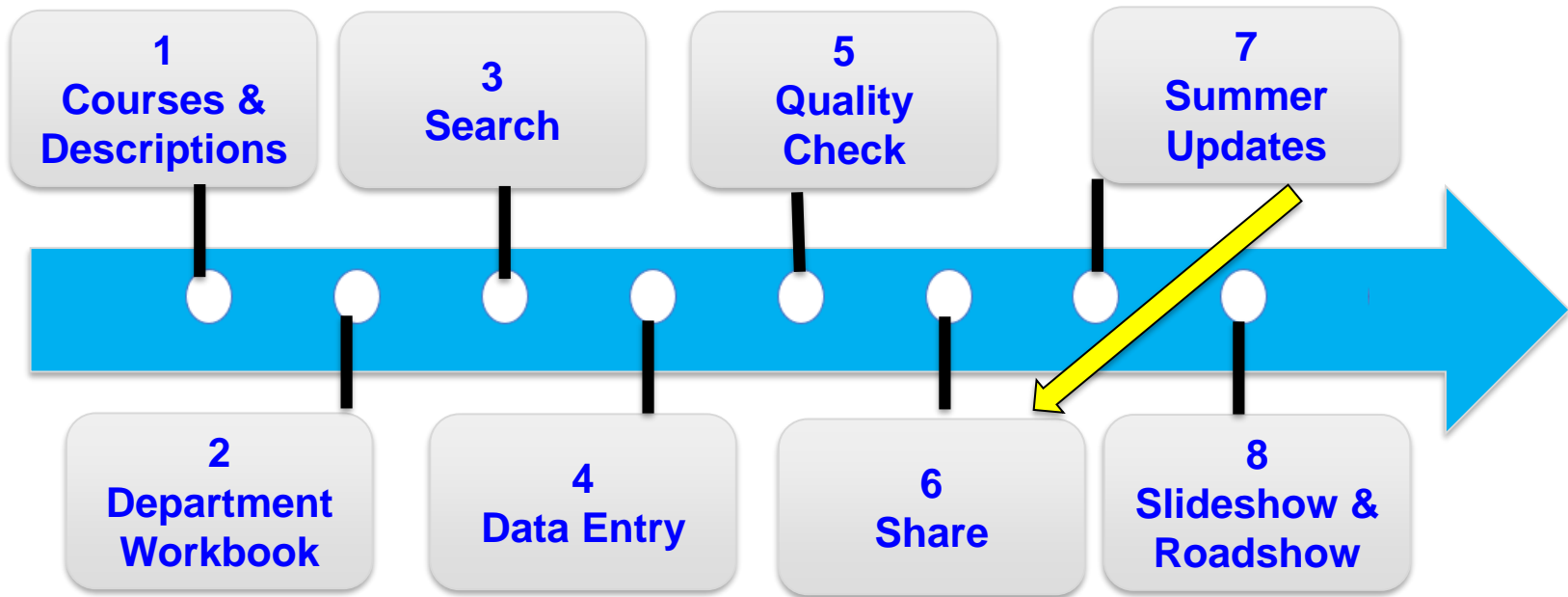
Mention
electronic
formats
available.

Work with
interested
faculty via
grants /
programs

Curriculum map
courses to ID
multiuser ebooks
and evideos &
share with
instructors



Big Giant Spreadsheets



[Viewing later? Click to see details in Appendix 1](#)



So what do these workbooks look like (Ex: Earth Sciences)?

Click on the course to go to the list of library materials that may be useful to your course.

1100	2155	3203	4310	5160	5617	5644	5719		
1105	2203	3315	4421	5189.06	5618	5646	5746		See search options to find more items
1107	2204	3411	4423	5203	5621	5650	5751		
1108	2205		4450	5206	5622	5651	5752		
1110	2206		4501	5550	5627	5655	5780		
1121	2210		4502	5604	5628	5661	5781		
1122	2245		4530	5605	5639	5663			
1151			4560	5614	5641	5680			
1911			4798	5615	5642	5718			

[See search options to find more items](#)

Contact me if you want further assistance with finding materials.

Additional search options, OER info, usage rights, etc.

Click on a course, you go to the workbook's tab for that course.



How did this work out?



- Started conversations – some instructors responded with interest, questions, etc.
- Some items were of interest.
- Visits to meetings resulted in more interest.
- Decent download of spreadsheets detected (BuckeyeBox records this info).



- Unknown who made use of stuff without telling me.
- Some courses had very little content that worked.
- Ex: Intro courses' ebook options much more limited.



Some generalities about formats

Videos:

- More available for lower-level courses
- Popular with statistics or anything involving death and destruction (earthquakes, weather, volcanoes, etc.)
- Heavily in Films on Demand, sometimes other platforms

Ebooks:

- Less available for intro courses, except as study/problem guides
- Some very niche courses had only a few books
- Heavily with publishers with wide ebook coverage (Springer, Elsevier, etc.)



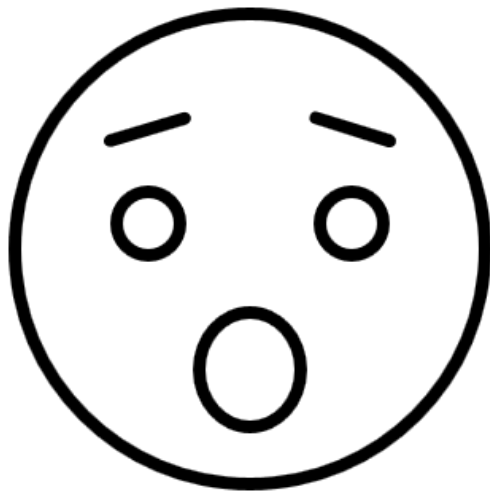
Big Ol' LibGuides Project



Wouldn't it be great if I could have a course guide for every course? But this would take SO long to do this!



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Covid happens →
Work at home!!



Big Ol' LibGuides Project



People need work
at home projects!!



Who did the work?

- **Civil, Environmental and Geodetic Engineering**
- Computer Science & Engineering
- **Earth Sciences (School of)**
- **Geography**
 - **Includes Atmospheric Science**
- Mathematics
- Statistics

Staff member +
Danny

Staff member +
Danny

Staff member

Staff member

Danny

Danny



Big Ol' LibGuides Project

Click on the course to go to the list of library materials that may be useful to your course.


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EARTHSC 1911

Getting Started

Course Reserves

Head of Geology Library & Map Room
Mathematical Sciences Librarian
Science Education Specialist




Danny Dotson

[Email Me](#)

Contact:
180E Geology Library
Orton Hall
614-688-0053

Subjects:
Computer Science, Earth Science (Geology), Engineering, Geography, Math & Statistics

Recommended E-books



A World after Climate Change and Culture-Shift

Climate Change and Human Well-Being

Facing up to Global Warming

Recommended Videos

- Deep Green Solutions to Stop Global Warming Now
- Earth : the operators' manual
- Five ways to save the world
- Green planet. Forest in peril
- Green planet. Road to recovery
- Green planet. Striking the right balance

Help!

- Choosing & Using Sources
Tutorials on finding and using info
- Citing Sources
- Citation Management Software
- Article Express / Interlibrary Loan


Request articles, conference papers, and even books (check OhioLINK first) when unavailable at OSU. Request scans of print-only journal articles available at OSU.

EARTHSC 6718

Getting Started

Course Reserves

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Mathematical Sciences Librarian
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[Email Me](#)

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Subjects:
Computer Science, Earth Science (Geology), Engineering, Geography, Math & Statistics

Recommended E-books



Emerging Contaminants in River Ecosystems

Marine Geochemistry

Marine Geochemistry: ocean circulation, carbon cycle and climate change

Find Books

- OSU Library Catalog
- OhioLINK Catalog
- Electronic Book Center (OhioLINK) [Full Text]
Electronic Book Center included ebooks on all subjects, including many encyclopedias, handbooks, biographical collections, and guides.
- Knovel Library [Full Text]
The collection includes over 2,300 reference books on a variety of engineering and technical subjects from more than 40 publishers and professional societies. These electronic books are full text searchable as a collection or within one of the 19 subject areas. Content is displayed in PDF format. Some volumes contain interactive graphs and tables.

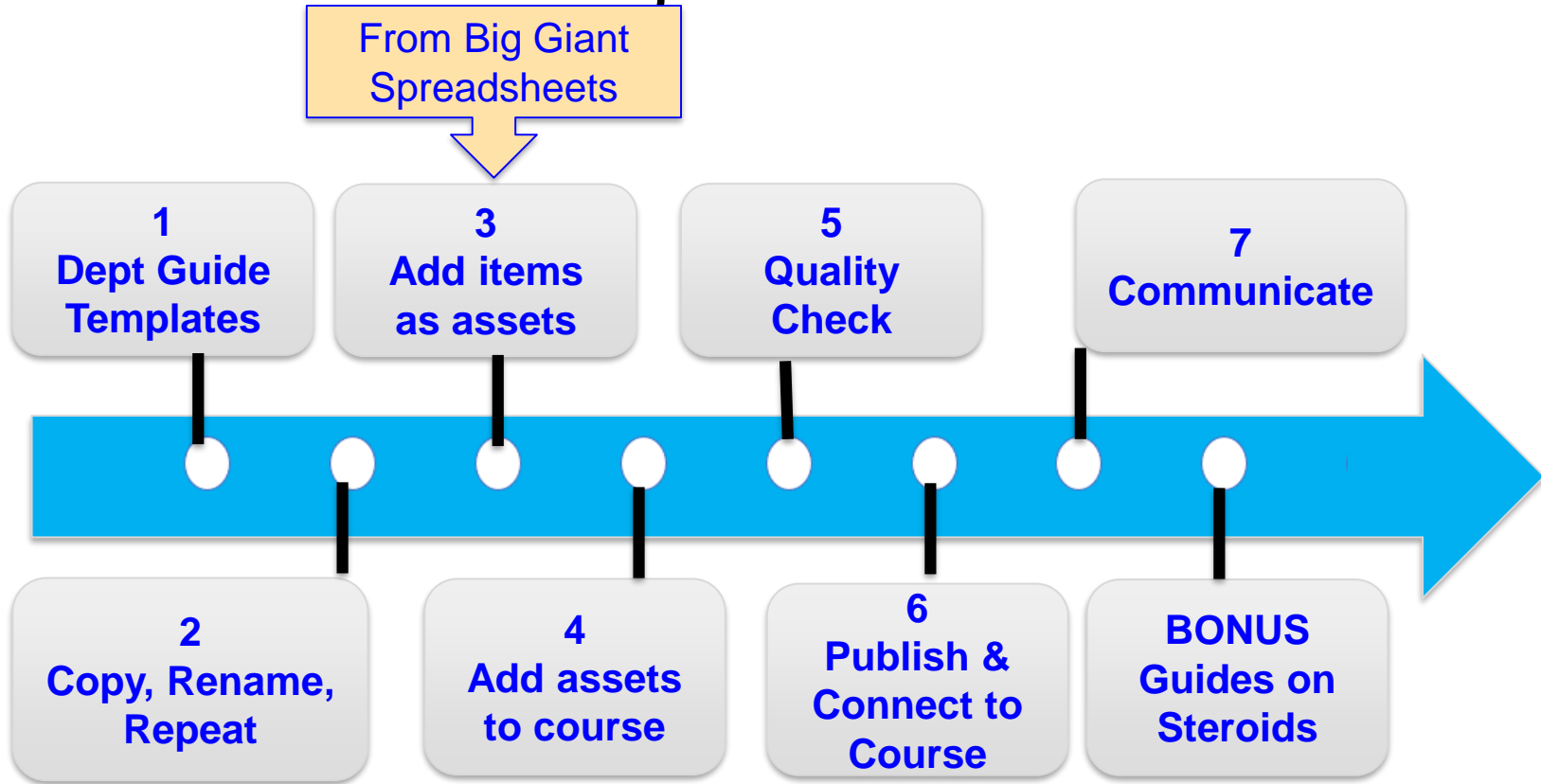
Help!

- Choosing & Using Sources
Tutorials on finding and using info
- Citing Sources
- Citation Management Software
- Article Express / Interlibrary Loan

Request articles, conference papers, and even books (check OhioLINK first) when unavailable at OSU. Request scans of print-only journal articles available at OSU.



Big Ol' LibGuides Project



Viewing later? Click to see details in Appendix 2



Big Ol' LibGuides Project

Preliminary Data on use (8/25 – 10/02)

- 460 new course guides created (there were already several guides)
- Use: 2800+ views (includes some views during checking, some guide creation continued into Fall semester)

Top courses thus far:

MATH - Calculus	370
CSE 2111	272
MATH 1150	108
MATH 1131	88
MATH 1148	78
STAT 1430	70
CSE 1222	65
MATH 1075	65
CSE 2221	58
MATH 1172	54



Big Ol' LibGuides Project

So what about GEO-related courses?

- Usually lower enrollment
- Have also been working on syllabi review (see next section – some are embedding content elsewhere in course)
- Some higher use in this area:

EARTHSC 1105	45
EARTHSC 1100	43
GEOG 2400	31
CIVILEN 4210	21
GEOG 2100	20

See my guides: <https://go.osu.edu/dotsonguides>



For both spreadsheets and guides, why didn't you...?

Share links to search?

- Already tried
- Not specific enough

Talk to instructors first?

- Too many people
- Too little time
- Give specific titles to entice

Include journal articles? OERs?

- Too little time
- Too many options

Use syllabi?

- Not always available
- Sometimes too basic
- Consistent source (course descriptions) easier



A few more questions....

How long did spreadsheets take?

- A few hours to gather course info
- ~10-15 minutes per class finding sources
- Data entry into spreadsheets varied by # of items

How long did guides take?

(based on Danny speed)

- Template – ~10 minutes (based on existing subject guide for dept)
- Create a new course – ~2 minutes per guide
- ~1 minute per item from spreadsheet to add as asset
- ~1 minute per asset to add to guide

Might instructors find this pushy?

- Maybe
- Sharing info only
- Do with it what they feel like



Syllabi Review

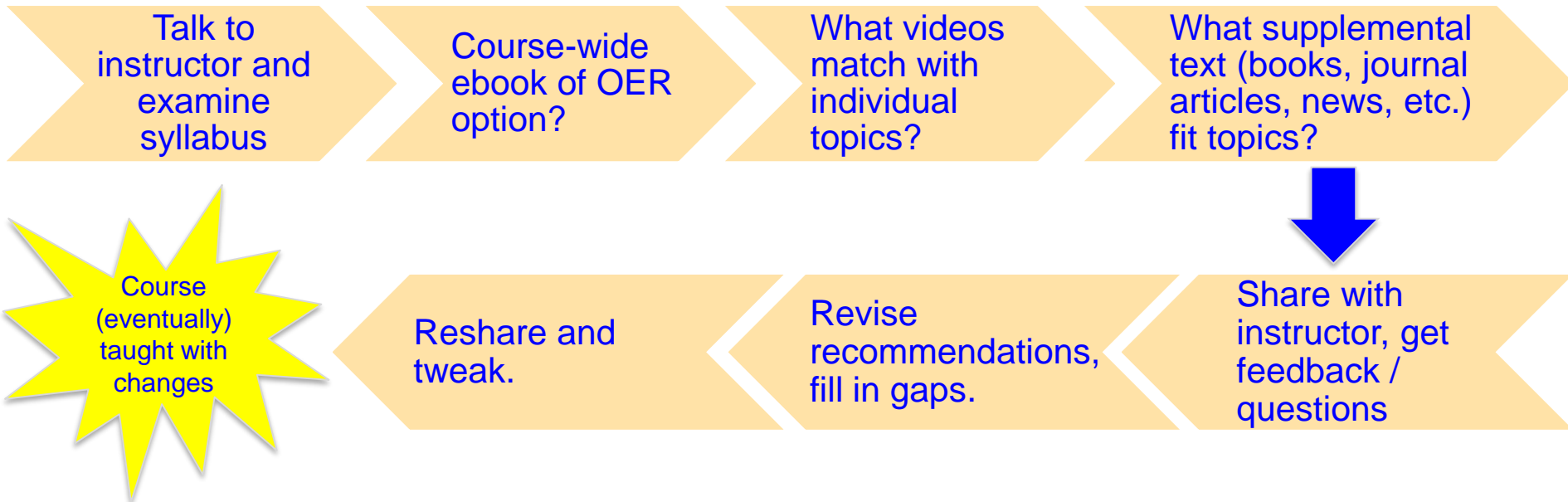
1. Grants offered to have reviews done by OSU's Affordable Learning Exchange
 - Instructor required to reduce cost by a certain % due to review

2. I also volunteered to do reviews despite grant.



Syllabi Review

What's involved?





Syllabi Review

- Worked with several instructors to do this
- Most in Geography and Earth Sciences
- Some involving grants, some more casual
- Much more targeted, detailed, and **TIME CONSUMING.**



Now you see why I didn't do this for every department, every class for spreadsheets!



Sources for stats near beginning:

- **National Association of College Stores:** <https://www.nacs.org/research/HigherEdRetailMarketFactsFigures.aspx>
- **NBC News:** <https://www.nbcnews.com/feature/freshman-year/college-textbook-prices-have-risen-812-percent-1978-n399926>
- **American Enterprise Institute:** <http://www.aei.org/publication/chart-of-the-day-the-astronomical-rise-in-college-textbook-prices-vs-consumer-prices-and-recreational-books/>
- **USA Today:** <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/personalfinance/2014/02/02/cnbc-college-textbooks-expensive/5038807/>
- **Inside Higher Ed:** <https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2017/09/20/study-high-textbook-prices-lead-poor-grades>
- **Student PIRGs:** <https://studentpirgs.org/reports/sp/covering-cost>



Questions?

dotson.77@osu.edu

Download slides:

<https://go.osu.edu/dotsongl101>



Appendix 1



Big Giant Spreadsheets

Step 1: Courses & Descriptions

- Use official Course Catalog for IDing courses
- What courses?
 - Focus only on undergrad courses (1000-5999)
 - Skip courses such as independent studies, generic group studies numbers, etc.
- Course description is key to many courses, especially those with ambiguous names
- Record details



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Step 2: Create Excel workbook for each department

- Each course gets its own worksheet (tab)
 - This is where items for each course will go
- Each department gets an TOC tabs with links to each course's worksheet plus a general info tab.



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Step 3: Search, Search, Search...

- Use terms found in course title, description, etc.
- Limits:
 - Ebooks
 - Unlimited user options only
 - Exception for Safari Books Online (100 seat consortial license when first did the project, now unlimited) and sometimes with software books from other sources
 - Streaming Videos
 - Years (2000+ or 2010+ depending on discipline)



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Step 4: Data Entry

- Record titles, links, and format in spreadsheet for each class in its worksheet.

Step 5: Quality Check

- Make sure things were working right.



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Step 6: Share with Instructors

- Get list of faculty, lecturers, TAs, etc. from department sites.
- Give context in email.

Step 7: Update and Repeat over summer

- Looks for new content
- Remove content that is no longer available (usually videos)
- Redistribute (to updated list of contacts)



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Step 8: Slideshow & Roadshow

- Use slideshow to share details and spreadsheets
- Distribute to instructors
- Visit select departments (curriculum committees, faculty meetings, etc.) when able to snag an invite



Appendix 2



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Step 1: Create template for department/program

- Holding spot for recommended ebooks/videos
 - Ebooks section is gallery format – with 3 book covers displayed at once, moving slide show, and ½ size covers.
- Additional content on finding books, journal articles, help info, etc.



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Step 2: Copy, Rename, Repeat

- Copy the template
- Rename to course number
- Repeat until done with department/program



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Step 3: Add items from spreadsheets as assets

- Ebooks as “book from the catalog”
 - If no book cover found, use generic blue book
 - Link to catalog record
- Videos added as links



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Step 4: Add items to course guide

- When ebooks added, include alt text for images.
- Videos added to guide as links.
 - Note: in some cases with a large number of videos, these were added as Rich Text en masse rather than one-by-one as videos. In these cases, these weren't added as assets prior.



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Step 5: Check for problems

- Books not linked?
- Missing cover?
- Something else?
 - Ex: Some Kanopy content dropped over summer, had to delete some links.



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Step 6: Publish & Connect

- Publish guides
- Connect to course in Canvas via Carmen Library Link
 - Custom system that connects LibGuides to courses, course has a “Library Link” in Navigation that will then lead to the specified guide.

Step 7: Communicate

- Share with instructors (same people that previously got the spreadsheets)



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BONUS: Course Guides on Steroids

- Mathematics & Statistics Learning Center asked for more advanced guides for courses they work with most.
- Received list of individual topics covered by course.
- Found videos for each topic.
 - Includes Khan Academy videos in addition to OSU Libraries streaming videos.
- Includes some limited-user ebooks – all noted with user limit.