# Pathfinders: A navigational tool through the Library

BC Library Conference April 22, 2005 Laurie A. Prange, MLIS Reference and Interlibrary Loans Librarian Yukon College

# Why Me?

- Started a new job at Yukon College (unexpectedly!)
- Thought about what I wanted to know in order to do my own job
- Did the research... but nothing!
- Best option Figure it out and get feedback

#### Outline of Presentation

- Original Outline
  - Examine examples
  - Pros and Cons
  - Guidelines
  - Distribution
  - Evaluate usage and value

- New Outline
  - Types (guidelines?)
  - Design elements
  - Pros and Cons
  - Usage
  - Survey
  - Examine examples

## Background: Yukon College

- Part of the BC Electronic Library Network
- Approximately 800 students
- Students range from gr.9 equivalency to PhD researchers
- 3 Prof. Librarians and 3 Technicians
  - four started new jobs in August
- Very small Library, open concept (can see a lot!!)

#### **Basic Observations**

- Students like:
  - To be independent
  - Paper they can take away with them
  - To be treated as students (combination of knowledgeable and... not knowledgeable)
  - Something "quick and dirty"

# Types (Guidelines?)

- General Research or Reference Skills
- Online Catalogue Skills
- Database- or Software-Specific Search Skills
- Discipline- or Course-Specific Research Skill
- Assignment-Specific Skills
- Internet Skills

### Design Elements I strongly recommend

- White Space
- Tables, Lists, Bullets, etc.
- Fonts, Bolding, or Italics
- Graphics, Underlining, or Outlining
- Colour

#### Pros and Cons

- Great start or no start at all?
- Speedy answers or incomplete?
- Availability great or poor?
- Training tool or out-of-date and misinforming?
- Great marketing tool or an embarrassment?

# Tracking Usage

- Keep statistics on reprinting
  - Similar to answering reference questions
- Web-counter

- Questions about the pathfinders themselves
- Rates of updating

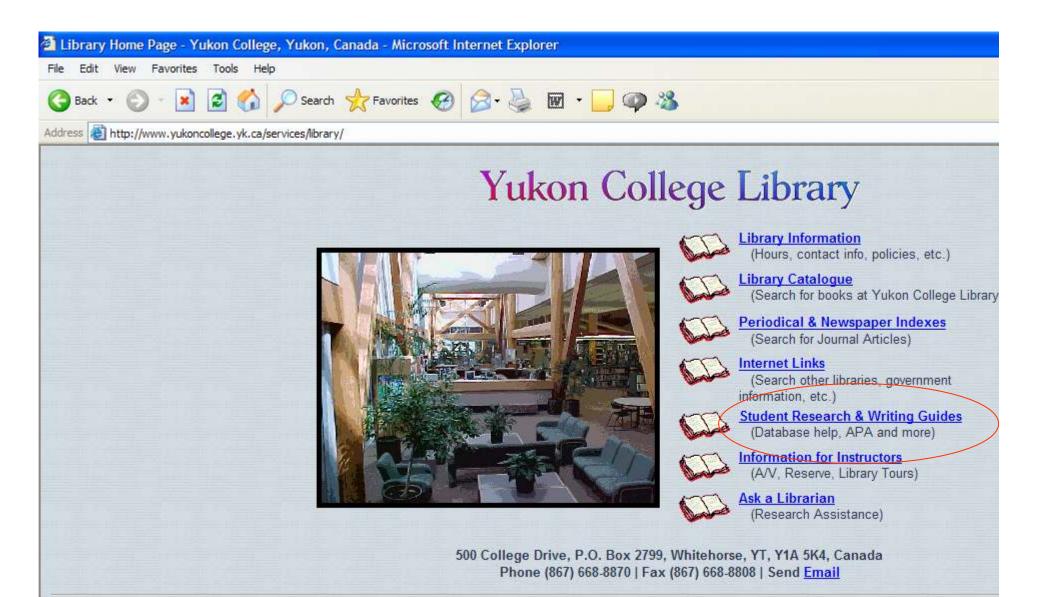
# Yukon College Survey

- Part of a larger study
- 15 respondents in initial testing round
- Obtained pathfinders from website, spin rack, and then Librarians
- 100% liked colour

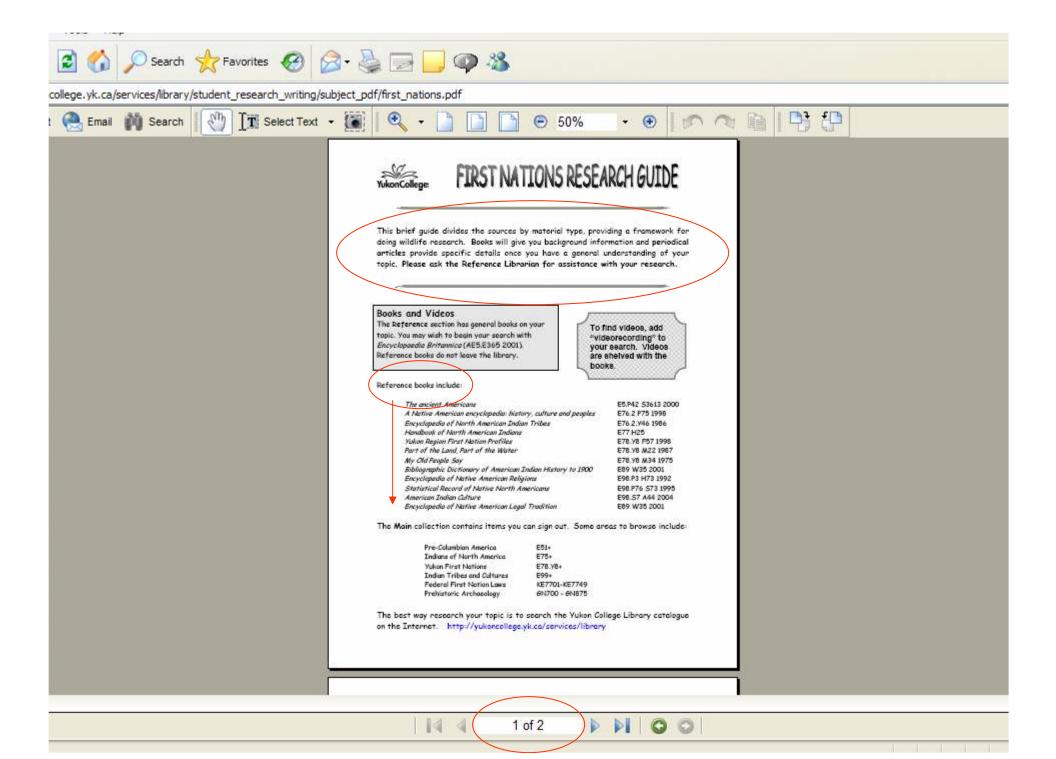
- APA Reference Guide most popular!
- Mixed opinions on layout but all liked formatting
- Didn't like it if "too busy"
- Many liked one page, hole-punched for binder

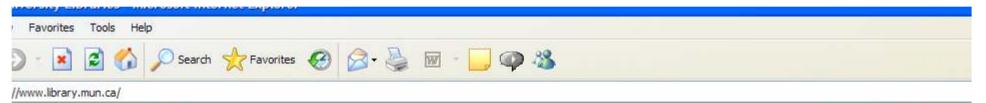
### Examining the Examples

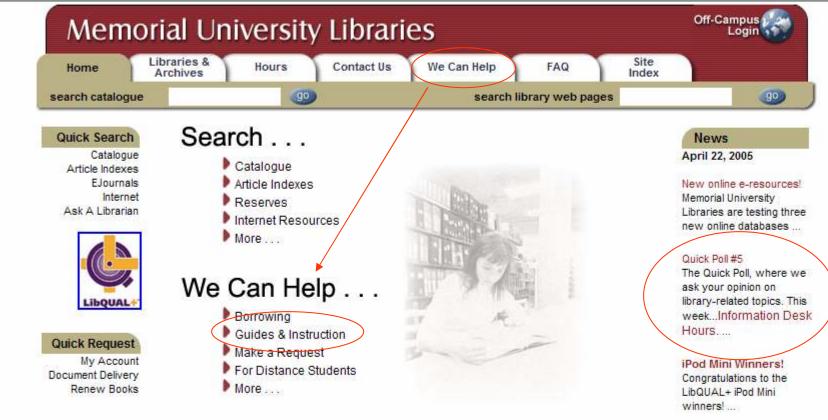
- Start with me Yukon College
- Memorial University of Newfoundland
- Red River College



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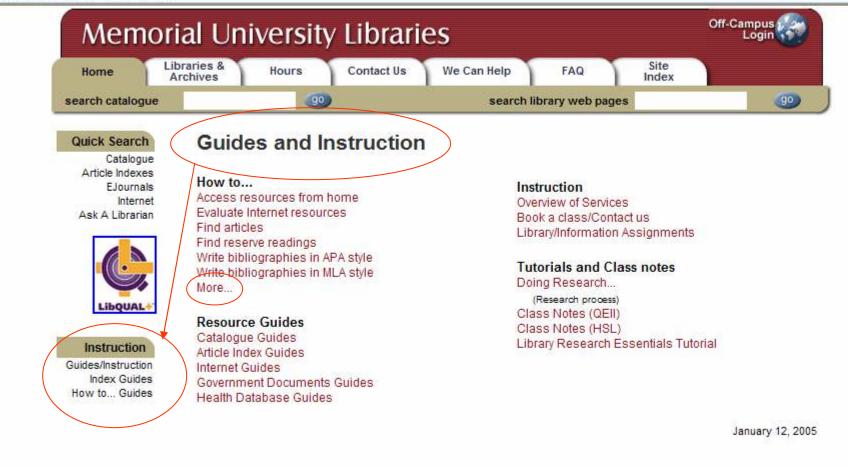
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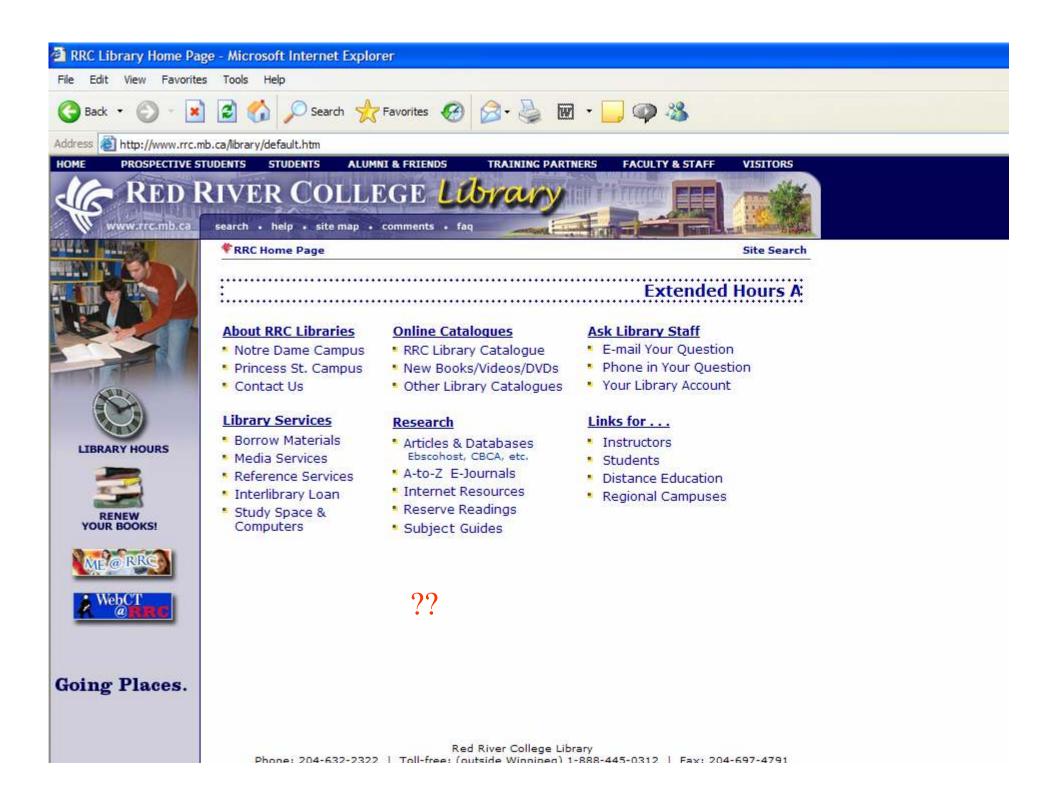
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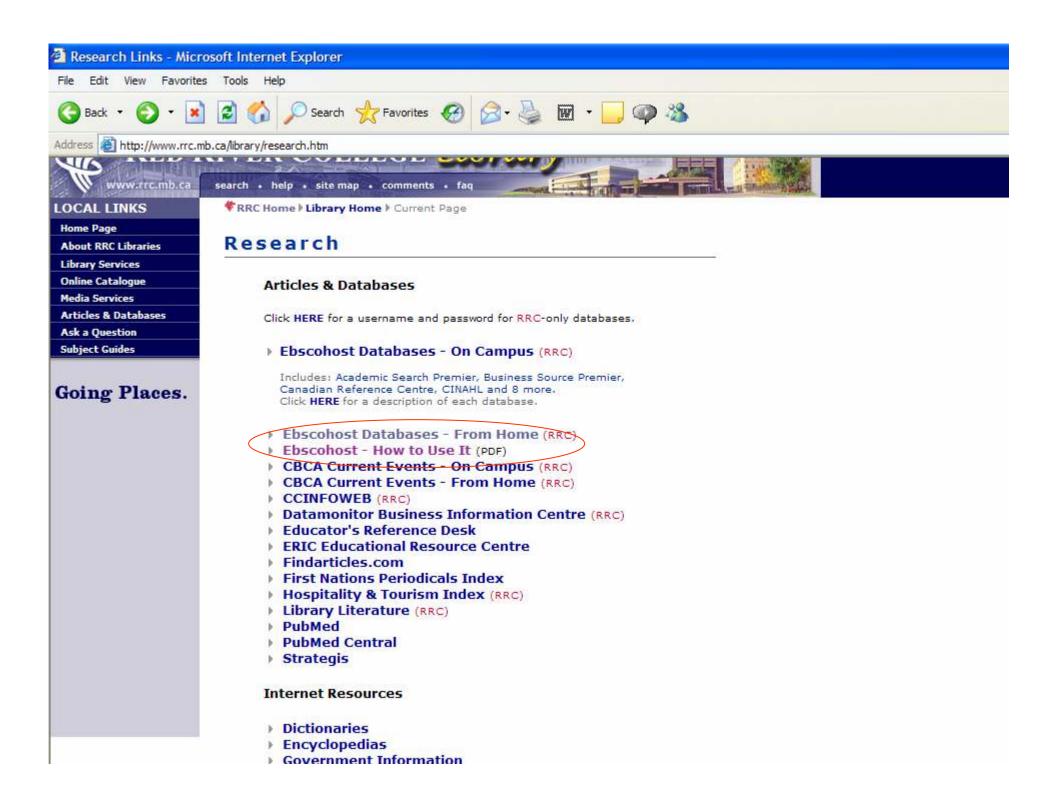
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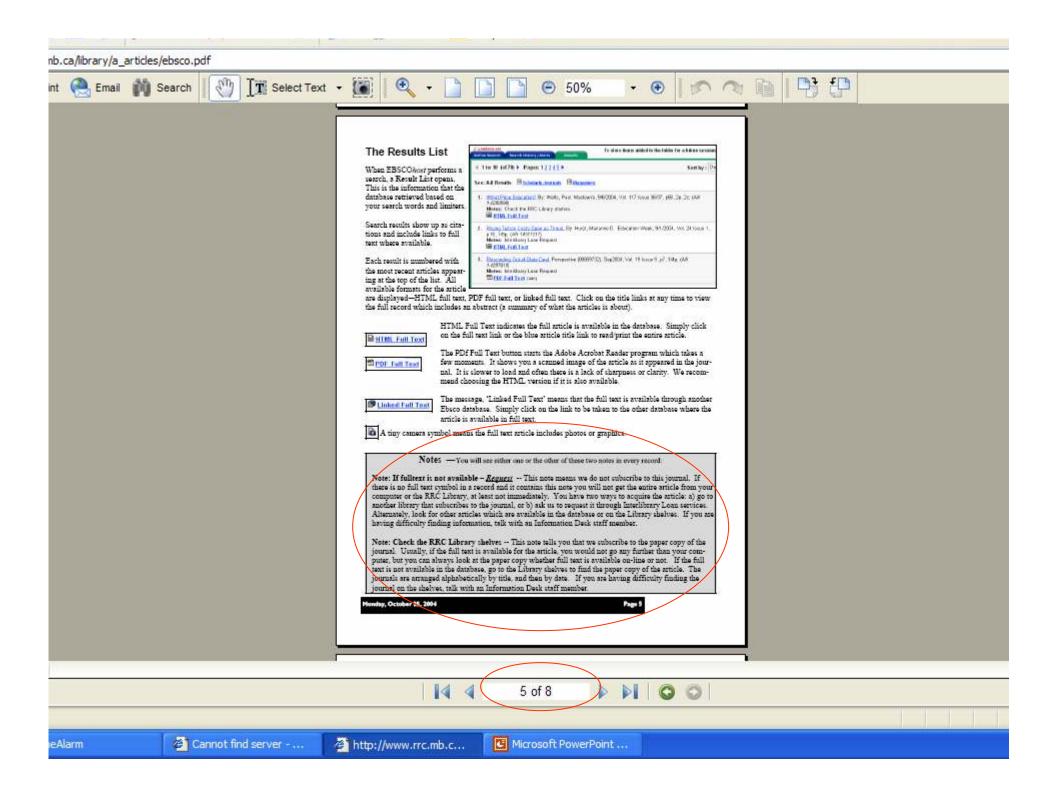
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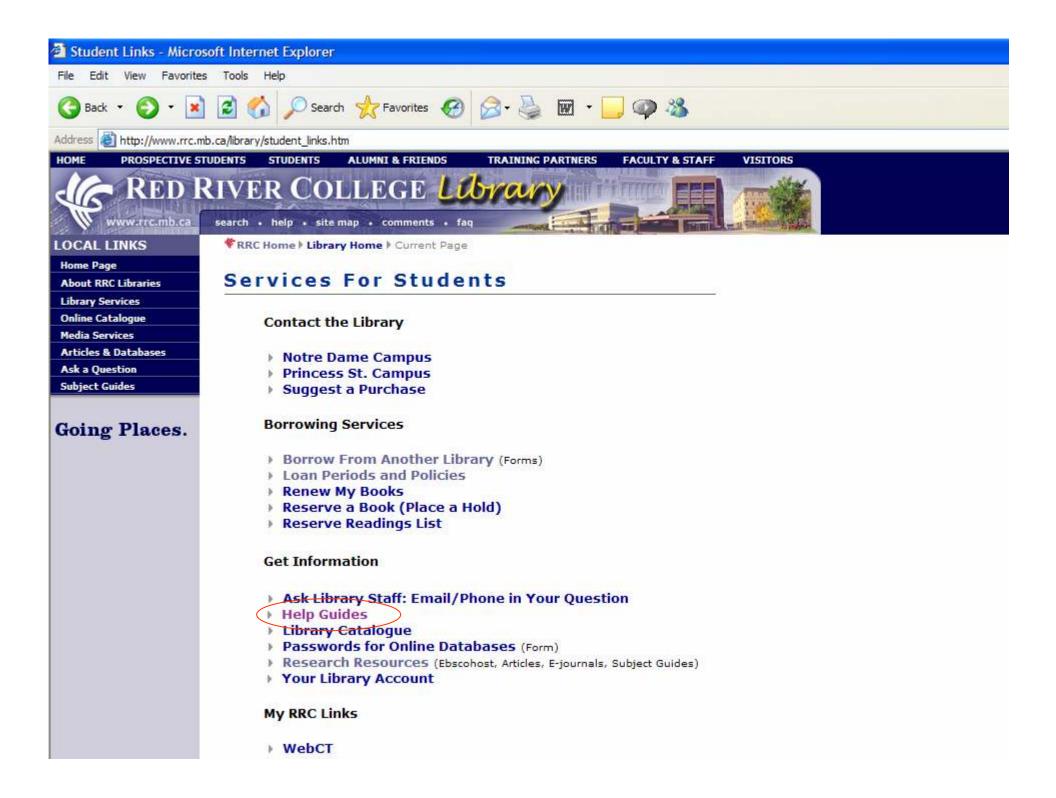
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Bergmann, P. G. (1993). Relativity. In <i>The encyclopedia Britannica</i> (Vol. 26, pp. 501-510). Chicago: Encyclopaedia Britannica.
Periodicals
Journal article: Author. (Date). Title of the article. Name of the periodical, volume (number), pages.
Berk, D. A. (1993). In search of the typical eyewitness. American Psychologist, 48, 574-576
Newspaper article without an author and from a daily newspaper: Title of the article. (Date). Name of the newspaper, pages.
New drug appears to sharply cut risk of death from heart failure. (1993, July 15). The Washington Post, p. A12.
Personal communications
Personal communications, including letters, memos, some electronic communications (e.g., E-mail, discussion groups), interviews, or telephone conversations are n text only.
K.W. Schaie (personal communication, April 19, 1996)
Internet
Article in an ejournal (based on a print journal): Author. (Year). Title of the article [electronic version]. Name of the periodical. Volume (issue):pages.
Garbarino, E. & Lee, O.F. (2003). Dynamic pricing in internet retail: Effects on consumer trust [electronic version]. <i>Psychology and Marketing</i> 20:495-513.
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