

The purpose of this usability study was to better understand our users and identify problems with our research guides. We worked in concert with two freshman English classes conducting a focus group and usability experiments. After discussions with students, we created a prototype, which, along with the current research guides, was used in a comparison study.

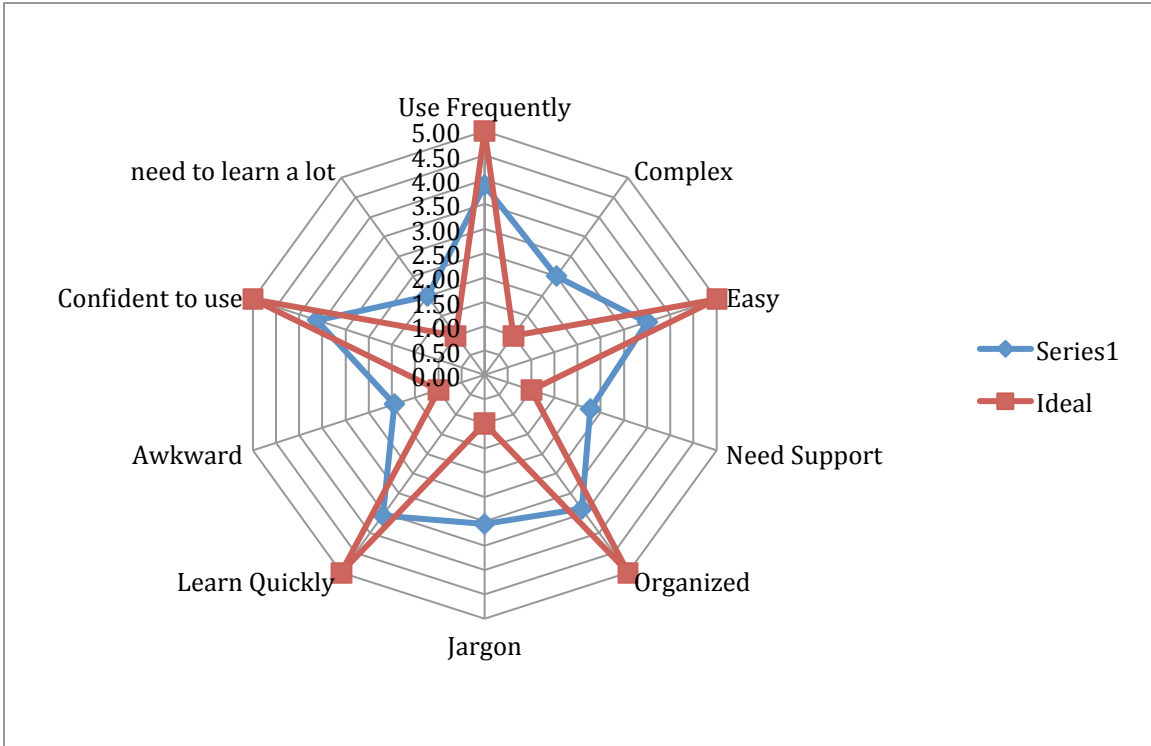
As a result of our study, we concluded:

- Students do not navigate tabs
- Students were more likely to discover resources when present on a single page
- Database descriptions were too verbose
- Students did not look at boxes with non-actionable content
- Library jargon is too confusing
- Students do not mind scrolling
- Clear and consistent language eases discovery and navigation

The following charts depict the System Usability Scale for the original research guides and the prototype used in testing. Our aim was to reduce the complexity and jargon in our research guides and improve the ease of use and organization of our guides.

With these changes now in place, we continue to monitor how students use the guides and whether they are accessing more resources from them.

Old Research Guides



New Research Guides

