

## ***Usability Resources***

### **Books**

**A practical guide to usability testing / Joseph S. Dumas, Janice C. Redish**

**Don't make me think! : A common sense approach to Web usability / Steve Krug**

**Handbook of usability testing : how to plan, design, and conduct effective tests / Jeffrey Rubin**

**Usability testing for library Web sites : a hands-on guide / Elaina Norlin, CM! Winters**

### **Articles**

- Bowen, Jennifer et al. "**Serial Failure.**" *The Charleston Advisor* 5.3 (2004).  
Link: <http://www.charlestonco.com/features.cfm?id=146&type=ed>
- Reeb, Brenda and Susan Gibbons. "**Students, Librarians, and Subject Guides : Improving a Poor Rate of Return.**" *Portal: Libraries and the Academy* 4.1 (2004): 123-130.  
"Surveys, usability tests, and usage statistics demonstrate that students do not relate well to subject guides."  
Link:  
<http://ezproxy.library.wvu.edu/login?url=http://proquest.umi.com/pqdlink?did=541576591&Fmt=3&clientId=9320&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

### **Websites**

- <http://www.arl.org/training/webcast/usability/resources.html> - A list of resources from the ARL webcast *Usability: Designing for User Success*.
- <http://www.usability.gov/> - this resource for designing usable, useful and accessible websites and user interfaces is a project from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.  
<http://www.usability.gov/basics/index.html> - Usability Basics is a great place to start.
- <http://www.usabilityfirst.com/methods/index.txt> - usability methods section from the Usability First website.
- <http://www.baddesigns.com> – illustrated examples of things that are hard to use.

## Listserv – usability4lib

- To subscribe or unsubscribe, send a message to:  
listserv@listserv.nd.edu.

Include in the body of the message:

"subscribe usability4lib <your name>" (no quotes or brackets)

- Recent topics on the listserv:

*To what degree do usability studies at your institution demonstrate a difficulty users have with selecting and using bibliographic indexes?*

*My main interest is in the creation and delivery of primary source materials - finding aids, images, datasets, etc. If anyone has done any studies on this I'd love to hear about it.*

*Does anyone else have results from projects they would like to share?  
Projects that come to my mind include institutional depository installations, linking software menus, chat login screens, as well as the usual homepage design projects.*

*Has anyone else been thinking about different approaches to OPAC interfaces?*

*I have been asking myself, "How do we measure success?" On one hand, it is irresponsible to say it is okay for no people to be able to accomplish none of the tasks. At the same time, it is unrealistic to expect 100% of the people to be able to accomplish 100% of the tasks. When do we know our interfaces are "good enough"?*