

Reimagining A to Z Database Descriptions to Improve User Experiences: A Database Description Project

INTRODUCTION

LF and SA identified database descriptions as an area for improvement during a library website upgrade project. They felt that removing vendor descriptions and including subject coverage and content categories users (students, educational & clinical faculty, staff) would be able to make more informed decisions about which resource(s) to use for their information needs. The A to Z Database page is maintained by the library through Springshare, therefore, able to be updated at the discretion of the library faculty.

GOALS

The project was started in early September 2020 with the goal to have all database descriptions updated by the end of December 2020. LF and SA aimed to ensure each database description was clear, concise, and provided users with the most valuable information in an easy to read format.

Proposed Description Format

- [AccessMedicine](#) 
- Alternative Names: AccessMedical, McGraw-Hill Medical
- Subjects: Allied Health, Anatomy, Healthcare, Life & Physical Sciences, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacology, Pharmacy, Psychiatry & Psychology
- Content: Exam & Board Prep, Cases, CME, Drug Information, eBooks, Multimedia, Patient Education, Practice Guidelines, Self-Assessment
- [Mobile App](#) not suggested, AccessMedicine site is mobile friendly

METHODS

LF and SA developed the project in a multi-stage approach to ensure that all faculty librarians were consulted in each stage and all work corresponded to the educational, clinical, and research missions of UMMC.



RESULTS...SO FAR

LF and SA are using Microsoft Forms to collect description information for each database. A spreadsheet will be made from the form to systematically update the database descriptions within Springshare. So far, 52 out of 93 databases have been input. LF and SA plan to have all descriptions updated by early Spring 2021.

Snapshot of Collecting Form

Databases A-Z

1. Name of Database *

2. Alternate Name (s) of Database

3. Years of Coverage or start year

4. Subjects *

FUTURE

After all database descriptions are updated, usage statistics pre and post update will be examined to see if usage improves. Liaison librarians will also collect feedback from users during formal and informal instruction sessions.