Pedagogical v. Pathfinder: Which is the Better LibGuide Design for Student Learning?

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Question

Which guide design (pathfinder or pedagogical) best supports student learning and self-efficacy outside of a classroom, instruction environment?

Methodology

Participants (n=22)

Results

18 post-survey questions. All had a pedagogical advantage. Questions with the most significant differences:

- I would like to be able to refer to any subject research guide provided by the library for my future research projects.
- I quickly became skilled with it.
- I need someone to teach me how to use the research guide.
- Overall, I am more confident about research.
- The research guide worked the way I wanted it to work.
- I learned to use the research guide quickly.

Rubric

On average, Pedagogical used 6 resources; Pathfinder 3.

On average, Pedagogical clicked 4 pages; Pathfinder 3.

Guide Interaction

Guide-Database Interaction

Guide Design

Pathfinder

Pedagogical

Workflow

Pre-Survey

Simulated Research Assignment

Post-Survey (Usability)

Rubric

Learning Objectives

Development

Level of Achievement

Initial

Guide Design

Books, Monographs (Theses & Dissertations)

Reference Materials

Articles

Elections & Polls

News & Current Awareness

IGOs & NGOs

Statistics

Open Access Resources

Citation Managers & Citing

On average, Pedagogical used 6 resources; Pathfinder 3.

Conclusion

Although there is no (statistically significant) performance difference, between the students who used Pedagogical versus Pathfinder-type guides, students using the Pedagogical guides reported a more positive experience and gained self-efficacy not seen in students using the Pathfinder-style guides.