

GALILEO Conference 2026

**DESIGNING LIBGUIDES
FOR GRADUATE-LEVEL
RESEARCH AND INSTRUCTION**

Presented by

Will Jones, Technical Services Librarian
Tess Lyle, Research & Archives Librarian

Richmont Graduate University

LibGuides & How We Use Them

- “Flexible platform for creating and sharing guides, maintaining A-Z lists, and publishing blogs.” —SpringShare website
- Subscribed in 2019, currently in our seventh academic year
- 130 guides, over 100k views, 300 students
- Three main categories:
 - course
 - topic
 - general use
- Priorities:
 - Accuracy & relevancy
 - Consistency in navigation & format
 - Minimizing distraction
 - Currency and up-to-date-ness



Richmont: Who Are We?

- Small Christian graduate school
- Offer programs in clinical mental health counseling (M. A.) and Christian ministry (D.Min. and M.A.)
- Two campuses: one in Chattanooga and one in Atlanta
- **341** total students (**55** in Chattanooga, **75** in Atlanta, **210** online)
- Two campus libraries with about 32,000 total physical books (and 500,000+ eBooks)





The Problem: The Old System

Focus on physical resources

Books cataloged as text reserves
Articles/chapters printed out and kept in manila folders

Issues

Time-consuming, resource-draining, bulky
Student awareness
Only available on-campus

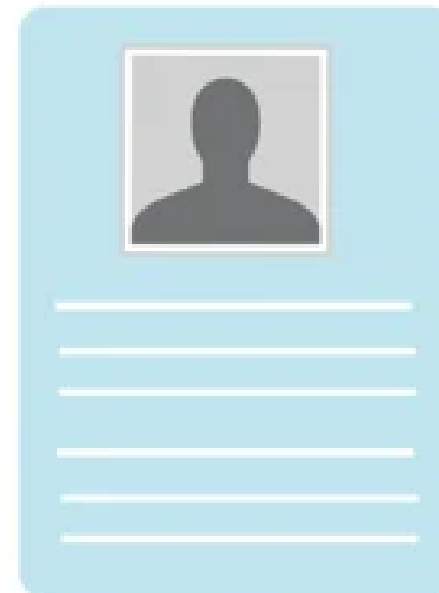
Question...

How do we make these resources easily accessible
from any location, at any time, while complying with
copyright law?

The Solution: LibGuides



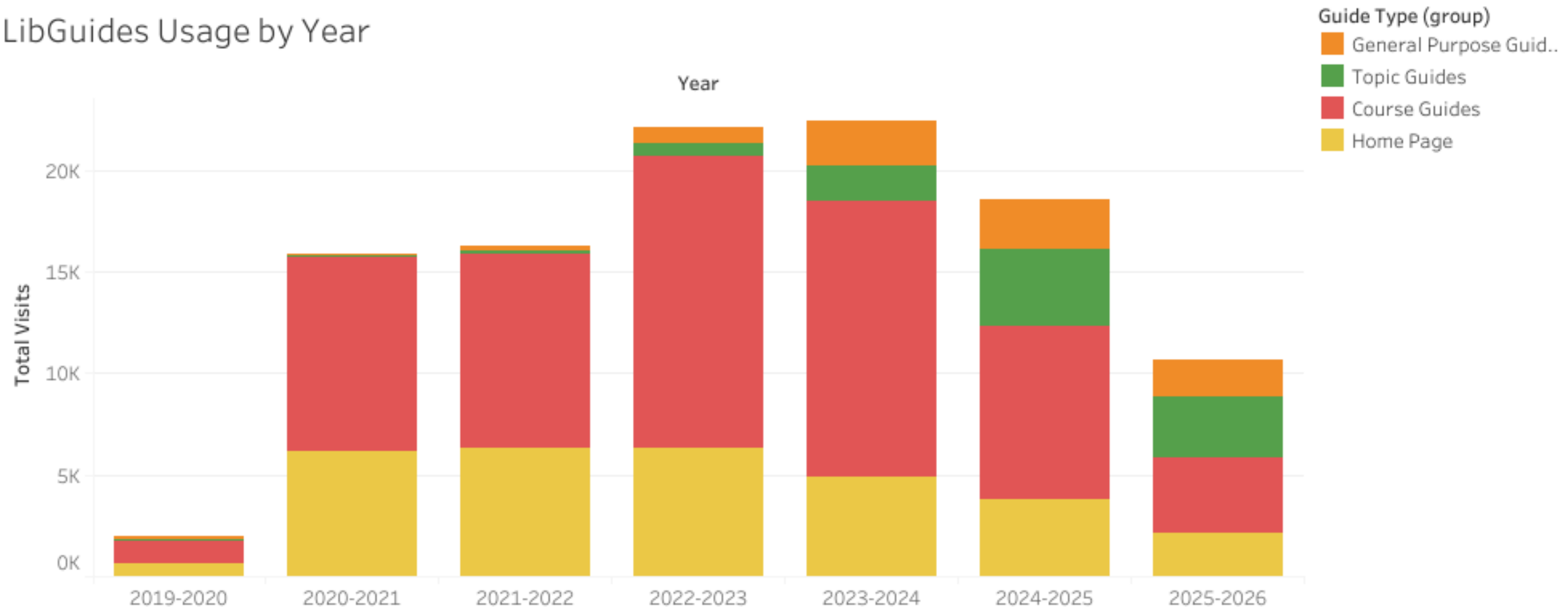
LibGuides by Springshare



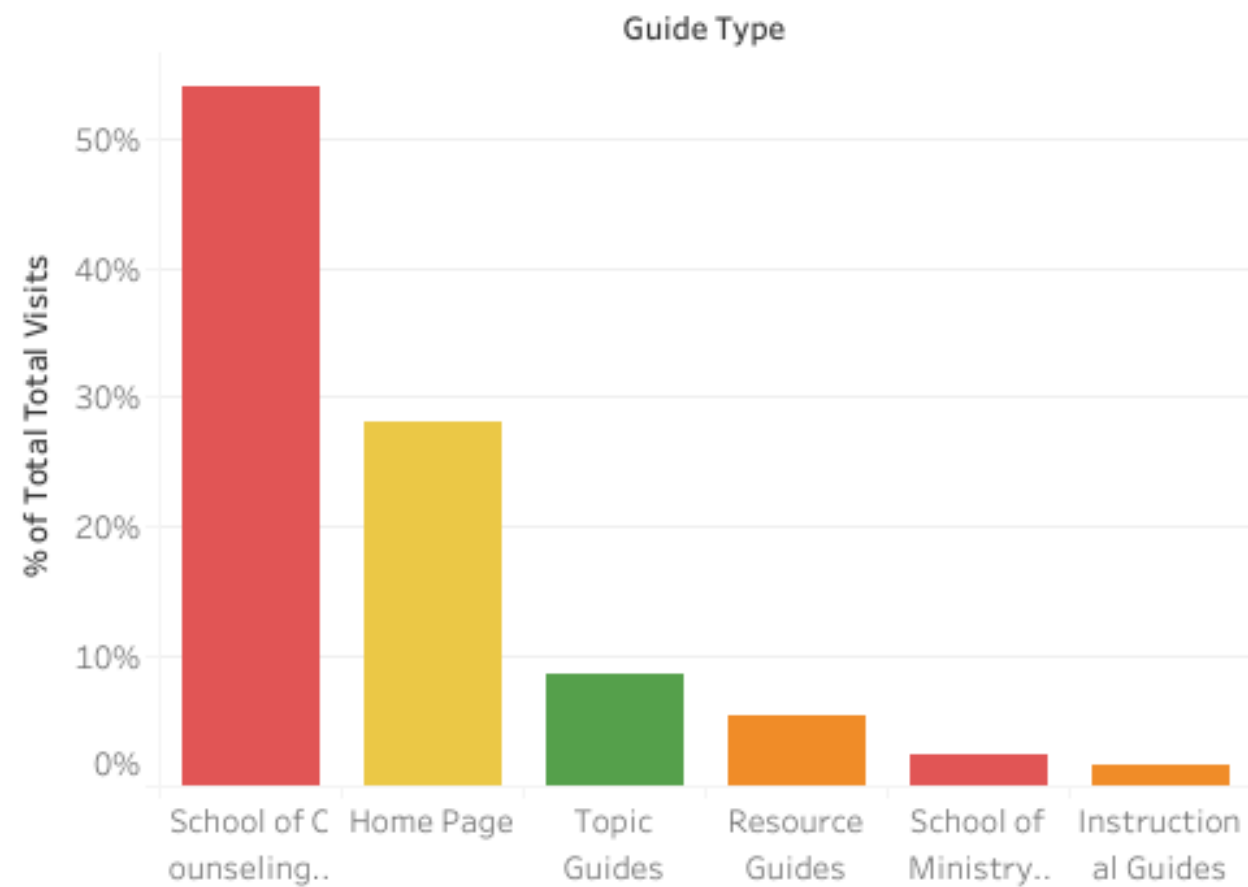
- Already subscribed when pandemic began, but not fully implemented
- Went looking for a way to serve remote learning platform & landed on LibGuides
- Easy to edit and update, doesn't require permission of webmaster
- By end of 2020-2021 year: 85 guides. 16k visits
- Refining and making more user-friendly
 - Standardized language and format
 - Tabbed boxes

Tableau Dashboard Link

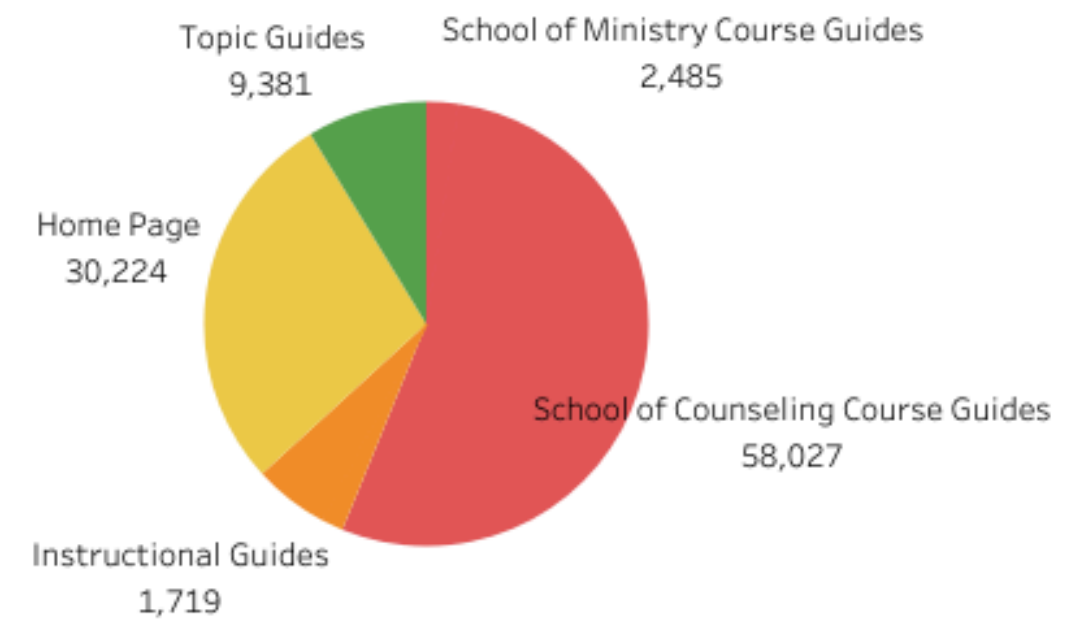
LibGuides Usage by Year



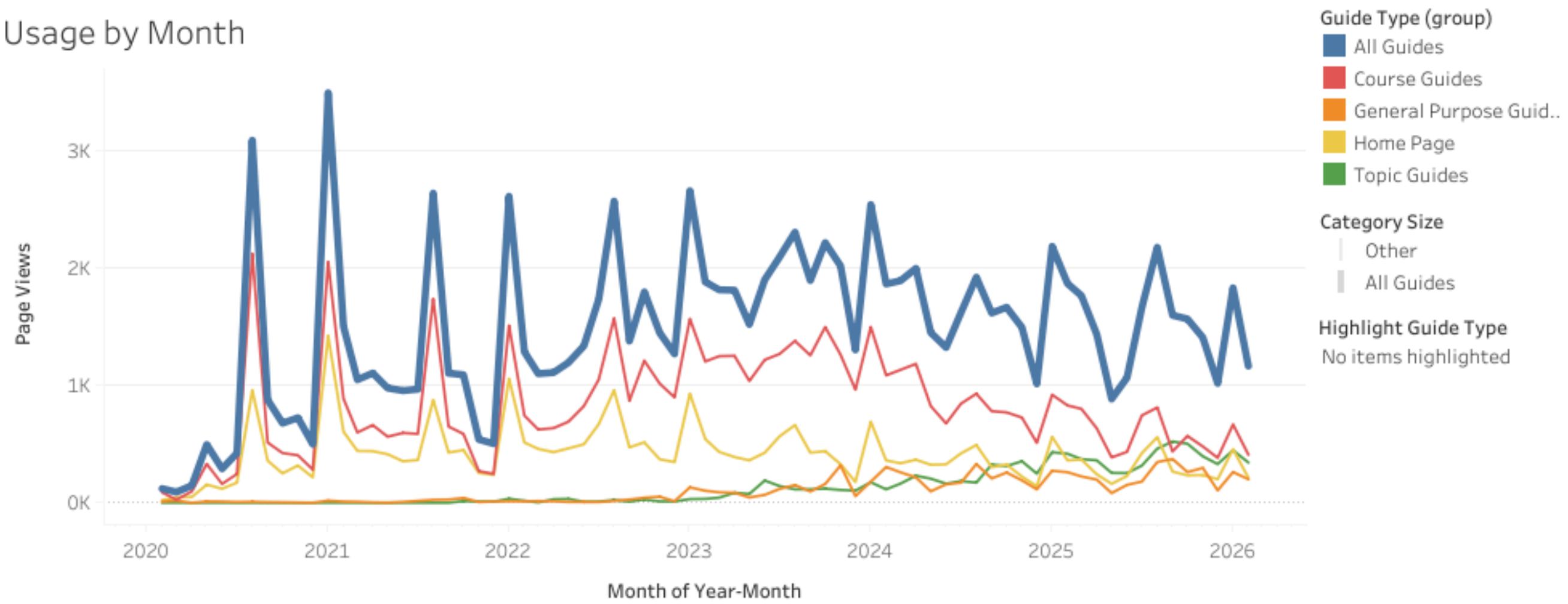
Total LibGuide Use by Type



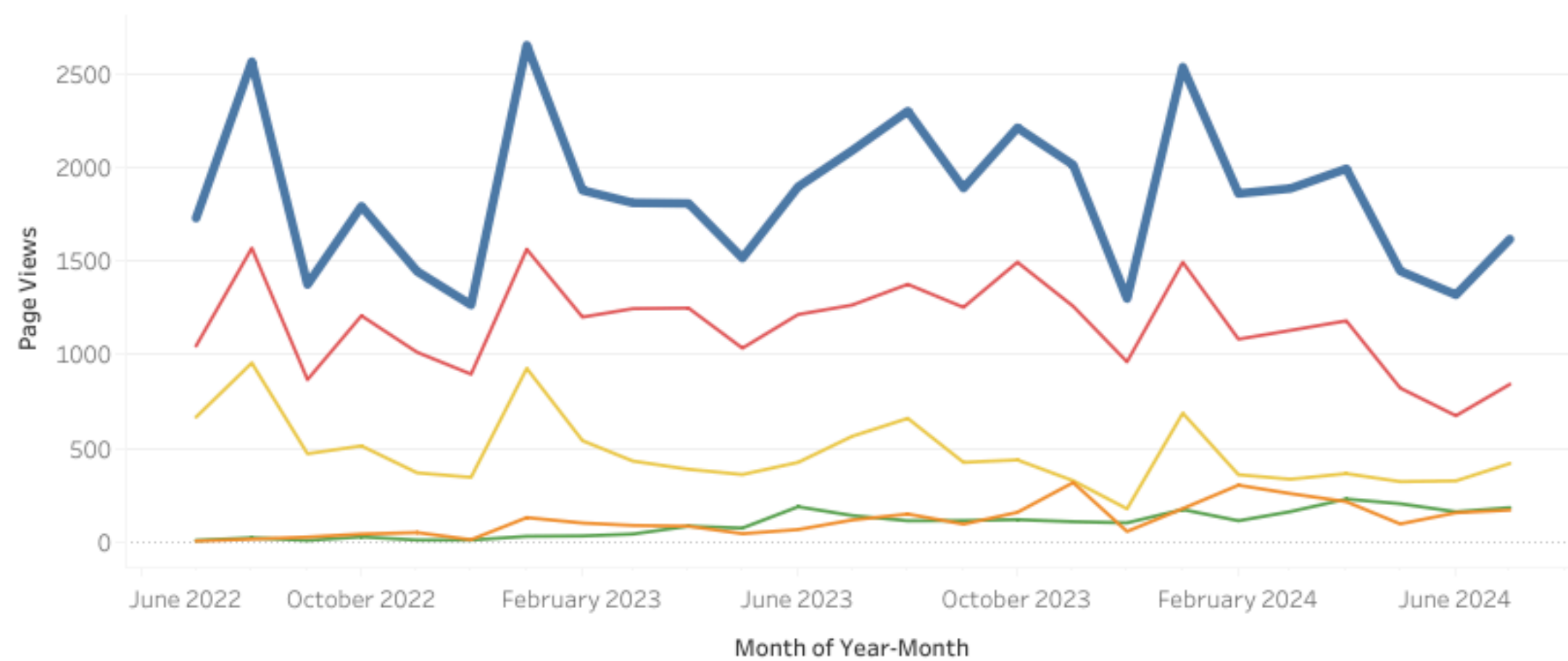
Total Visits, all time



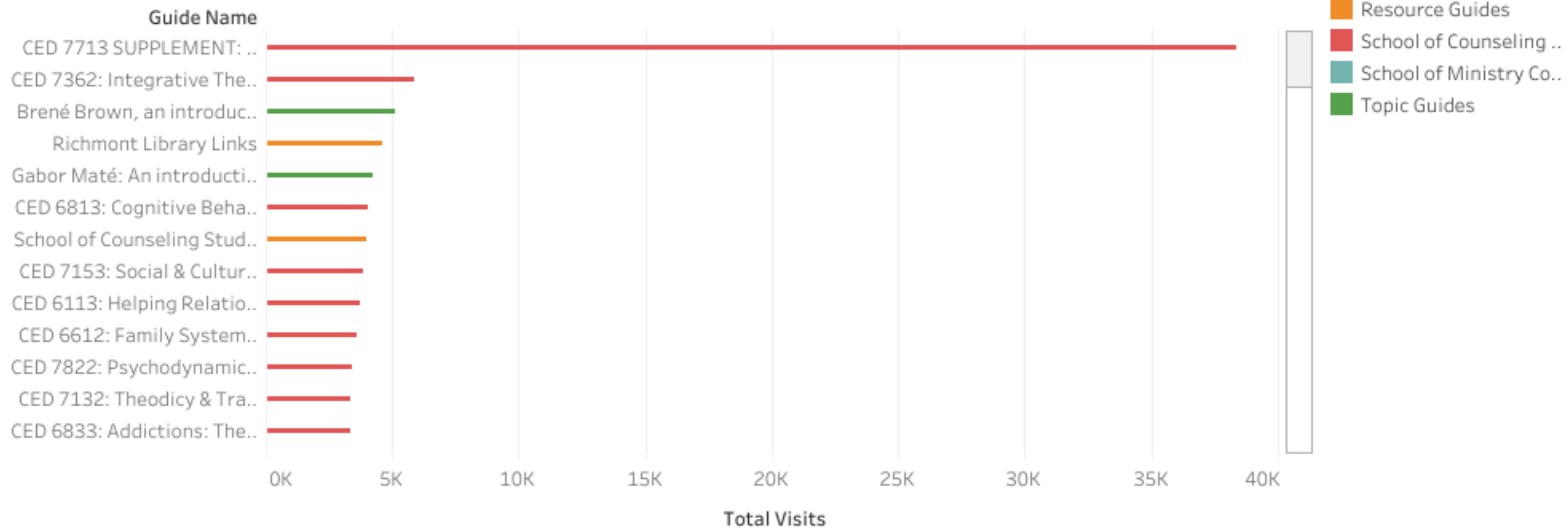
Usage by Month



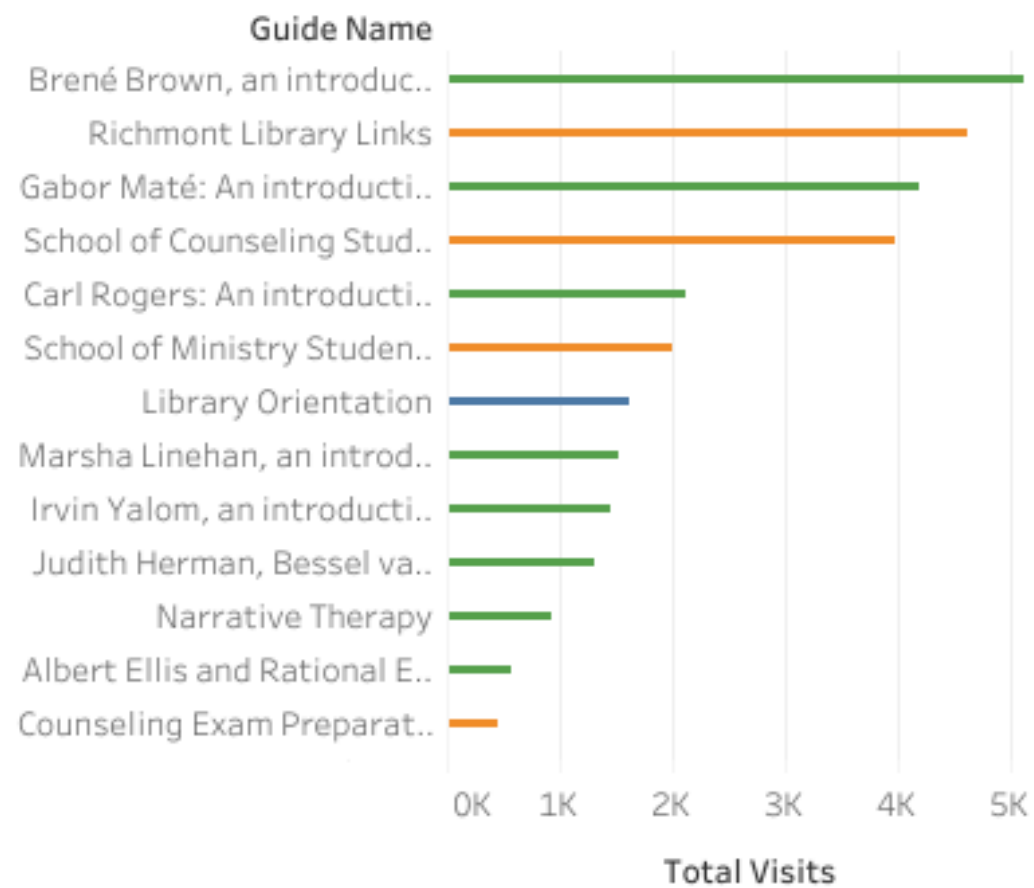
Usage by Month (2 years' data)



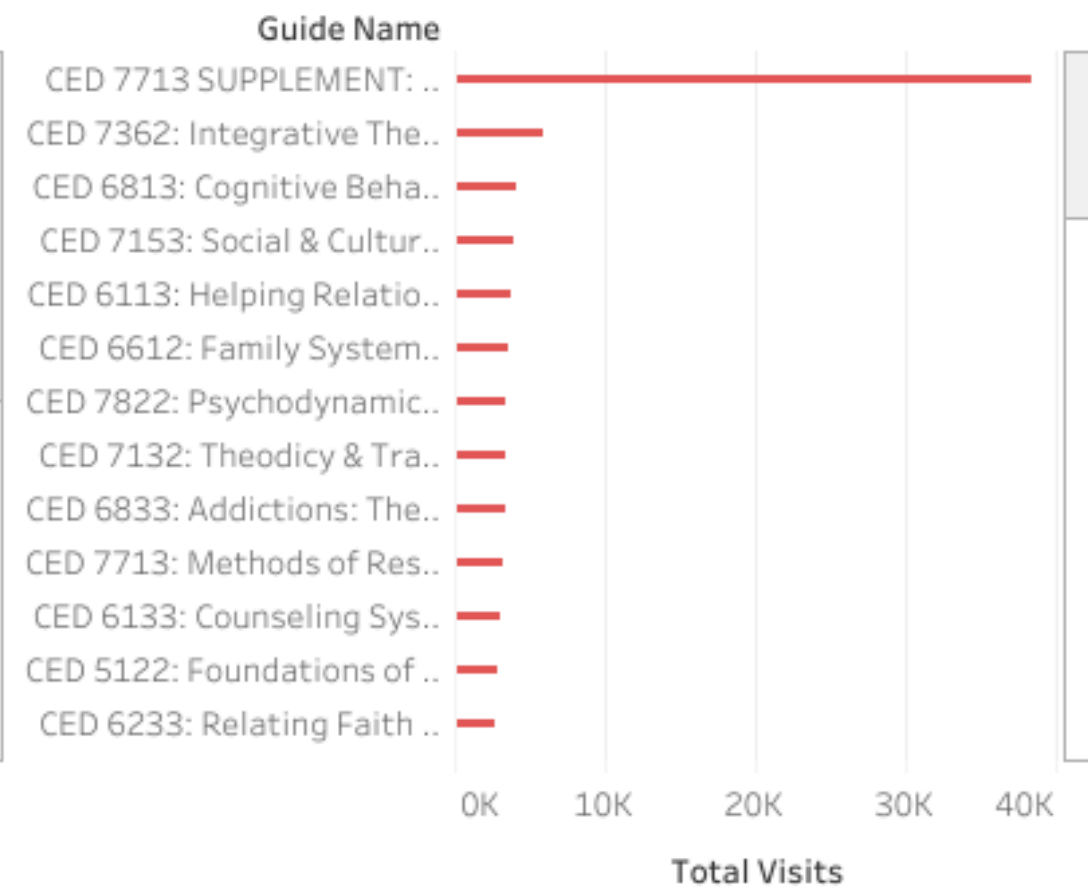
Usage_by_individual_guide



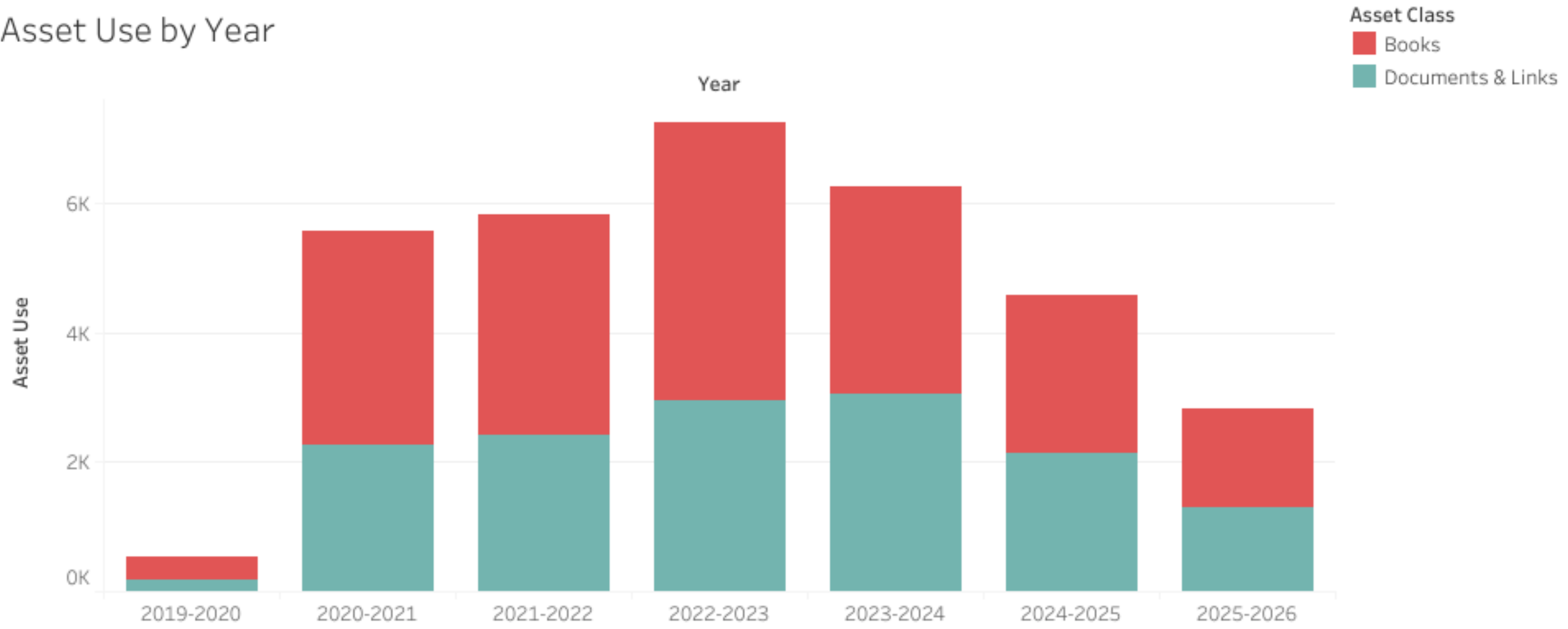
Other LibGuide Usage



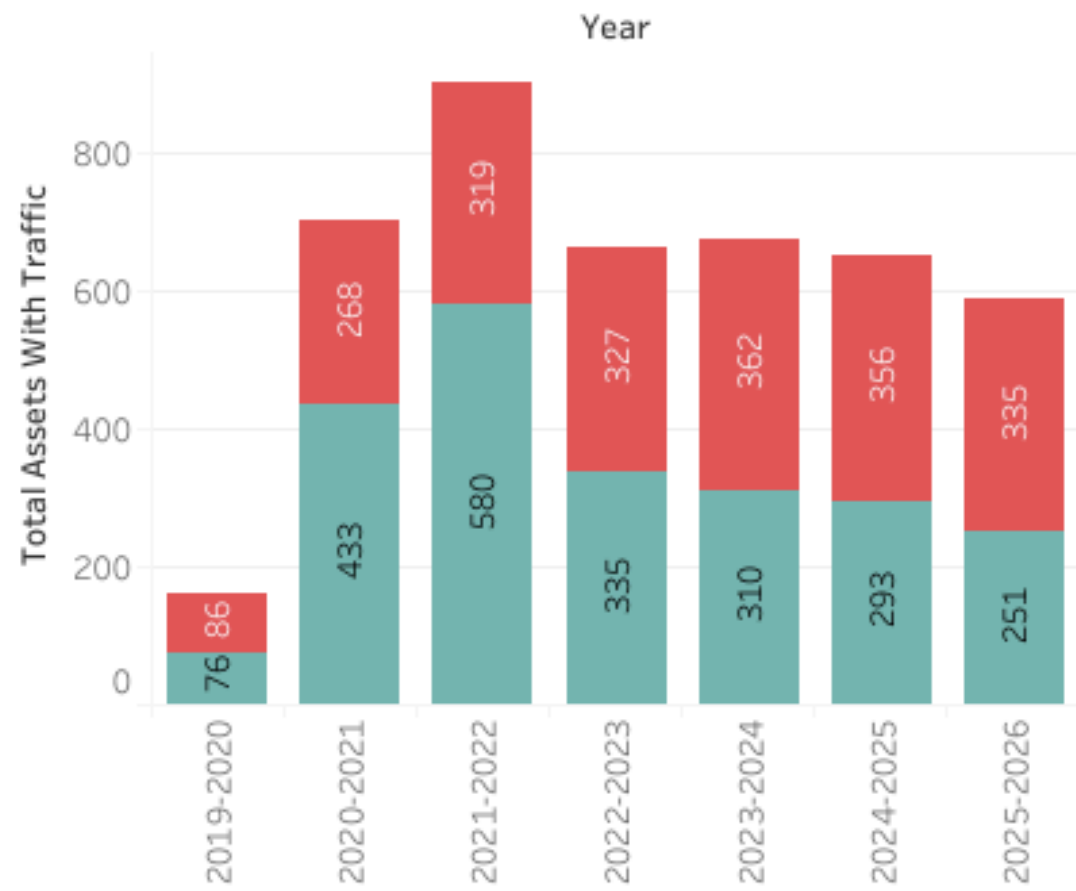
School of Counseling LibGuide Usage



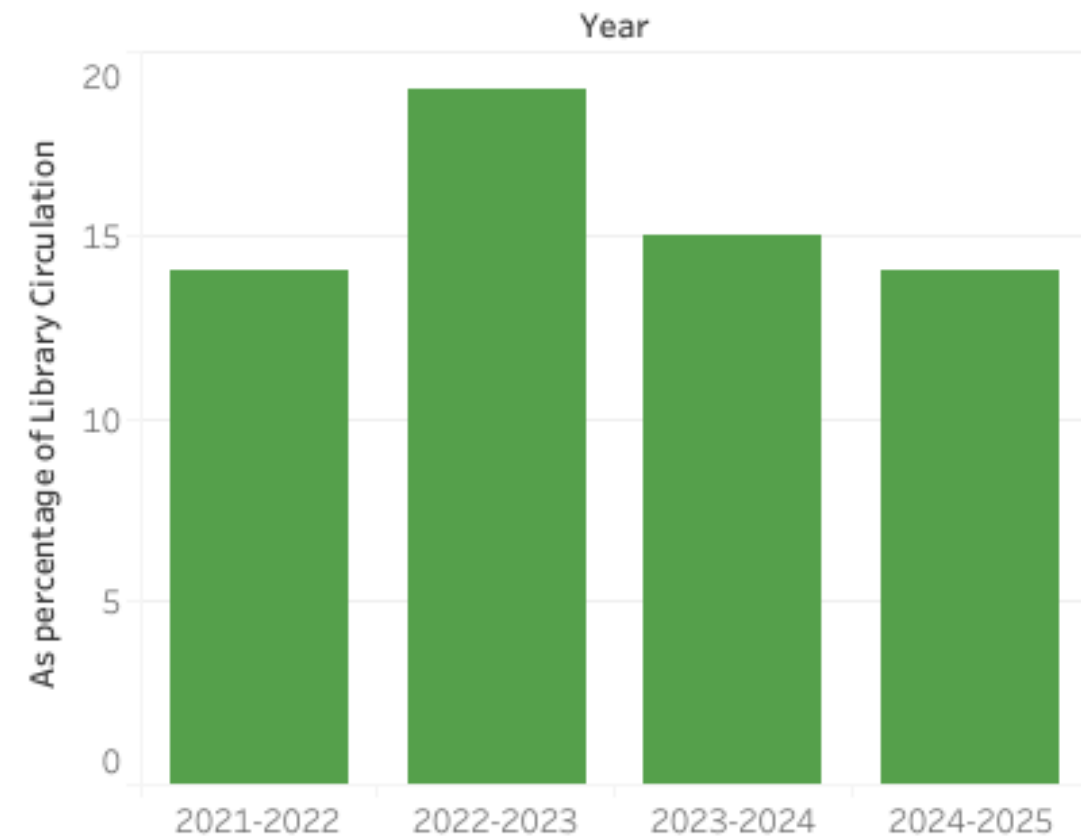
Asset Use by Year



Total Assets With Traffic



Asset eBook Use as a % of total electronic circulation



Principles of Design

Principles of Design

- Clean, consistent interface
- Standardized font size, style, and color
- Minimal distracting visual elements
 - No unnecessary images
 - Preference for links over embedded searchboxes
- Sidebar navigation (with some exceptions)
- Friendly URLs, i.e.,
<https://richmont.libguides.com/dsm-5-tr>

Sample LibGuides

- [Course Guide](#)
- [Topic Guide](#)
- [Library Homepage](#)
- [Institutional AI Policy](#)



CED 5122: Foundations of Counseling

Home

[Course Description](#)

[Course Syllabus](#)

[Required Readings](#)

[Recommended Readings](#)

[Richmont Library Homepage](#)

[School of Counseling Research Resources](#)

[Database List A-Z](#)

Course Description

2 hours. This course is structured as a foundational course for the Masters in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program, to acquaint graduate students with a broad view of the field of Clinical Mental Health Counseling. The course provides a foundational knowledge about the counseling profession, its history, philosophy, and professional identity. Students will also be exposed to current professional issues within the field of counseling to include the roles & responsibilities of the professional counselor in working competently with diverse populations, serving as a social justice advocate and to function effectively in specialized settings of agency, community and emergency environments. This course will be taught in the context of a Biblical worldview.

Course Syllabus

- [Syllabus](#)

Course Guide Design

Consistent content and formatting in side navigation & top content

Textbooks

Articles

Note: Please reference the syllabus for your specific section to ensure you're completing the correct readings. The readings listed here represent a comprehensive list from all current sections of this course, and may not match each section exactly.



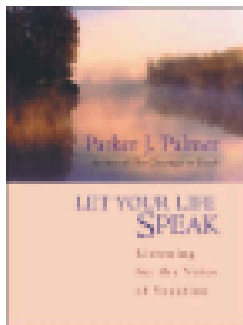
Counseling today: Foundations of professional identity by Darcy Granello; Mark Young

Call Number: TEXT RES BF 636.64 .G73 2019

ISBN: 9780134816425

Publication Date: 2018-01-12

Available on both campuses



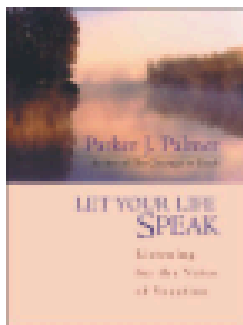
Let Your Life Speak by Parker J. Palmer

Call Number: TEXT RES BV4740 .P35 2000

ISBN: 0787947350

Publication Date: 1999-09-27

Available on both campuses



(Online) Let Your Life Speak by Parker J. Palmer

Call Number: Internet Resource

ISBN: 9780787947354

Publication Date: 1999-09-27

Available to unlimited users



Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.) by American Psychological Association

Call Number: TEXT RES BF76.7 .P83 2020 7th

ISBN: 9781433832161

Publication Date: 2019-10-01

Available on both campuses

- [Richmont Bookstore](#)

Don't see an eBook? Check our bookstore!

Course Guide Design

Box title

Tabs organized by resource type

Disclaimer

Bookstore link

Reflections

References

Burchfield, J. & Possinger, M. (2023). Managing your library's LibGuides: Conducting a usability study to determine student preference for LibGuide design. *Information Technology and Libraries*, 42(4), 1-18. <https://doi.org/10.5860/ital.v42i4.16473>

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Hennesy, C. & Adams, A. (2021). Measuring actual practices: A computational analysis of LibGuides in academic libraries. *Journal of Web Librarianship*, 15(4), 219-242. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19322909.2021.1964014>

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Lechtenberg, U & Gold, H. (2024). New rule requires web content (I'm looking at you, LibGuides) to meet WCAG 2.1 level AA standards. *Information Technology and Libraries*, 43(4), 1-6. [10.5860/ital.v43i4.17312](https://doi.org/10.5860/ital.v43i4.17312)

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Springshare. (2026, March 3). LibGuides community. <https://community.libguides.com/>

Questions?

Will Jones— wjones@richmont.edu

Tess Lyle— tlyle@richmont.edu