

Assessing the Problem

To better serve the U-M research community, which operates within a largely decentralized research administration and communications infrastructure, the U-M Animal Care & Use Program has partnered with the U-M Medical School (UMMS) Office of Research to develop a Drupal-based content management system (CMS) to manage and disseminate 500+ research guidance documents.

Design & Goals

With future scalability in mind, a gateway page was created to search across all sub-domains, creating cross-compatibility, consistency in format and terminology, and a more seamless user experience.

From the gateway page, researchers can search content across both Animal Care and Medical School research compliance documents.

Development Process

The website prioritizes the dynamic search capability. With the development of the complex search bar, researchers can browse for content in a variety of ways:

- open text search or prompted text suggestion
- most viewed documents or recently updated documents
- sort by three independent category affiliations assigned to each document: type, topic, species or unit

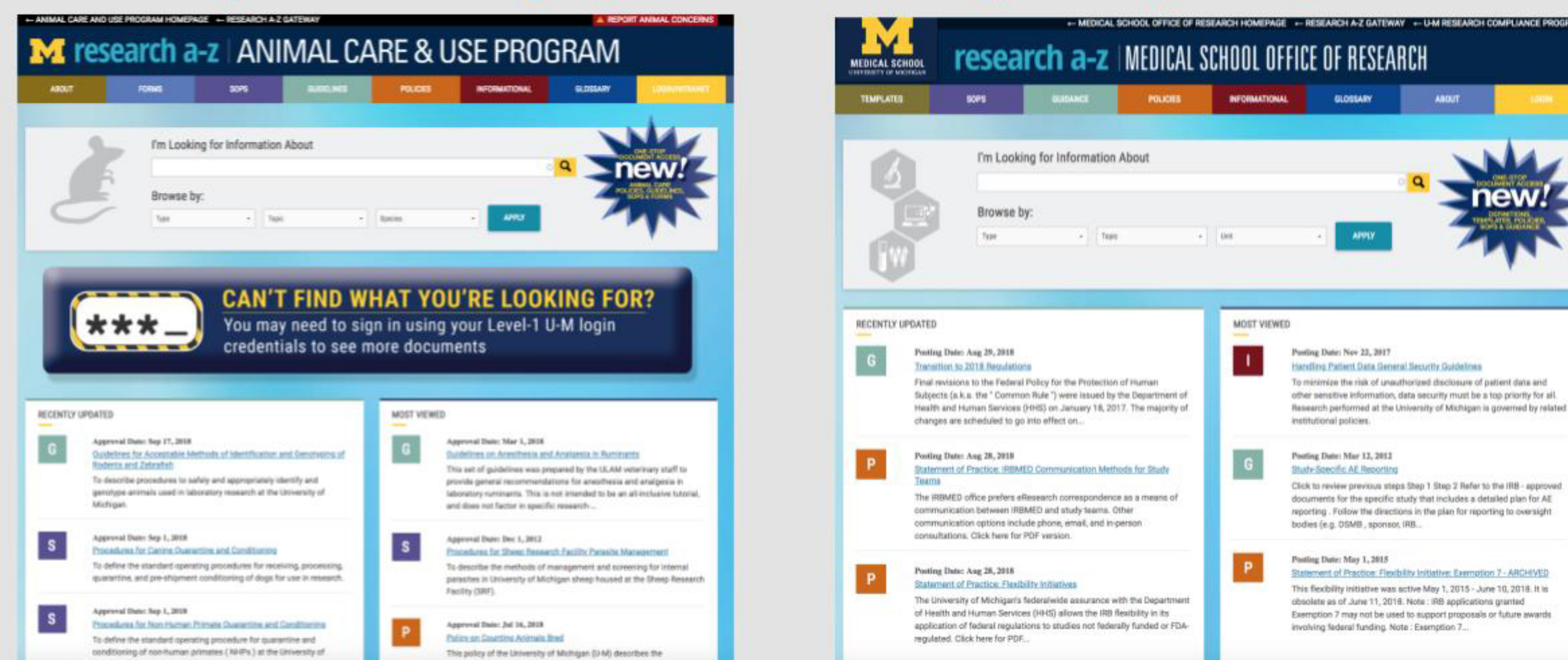
Implementation

Launched in June 2018, the website is used to publish, maintain, and track all Animal Care and use documents (e.g., forms, guidelines, policies, SOPs, and resources) and all Medical School research guidance documents (e.g., templates, guidance, SOPs, policies, and resources) produced by the UMMS Office of Research's 12 service units.

RESEARCH

Research A-Z: A New Comprehensive Content Management System to Simplify the Maintenance and Dissemination of Research Guidance Documents at the University of Michigan

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Functionality Highlights

- Visually appealing, user-friendly interface to allow for quick navigation of over 500 reference documents
- Search for a specific document and at-a-glance browse documentation that is new or frequently searched
- Collapsible accordion list(s) in each document for quick reference, which include a date/time stamp denoting last update, unit contacts for more information, and a list of tagged related documents
- Easy login with U-M credentials to access protected content, save custom searches, and bookmark frequently used documents
- Quick access to print and share individual documents with colleagues

BOOKMARK THIS

PRINT

SHARE

Results

AN AVERAGE OF
1,971
NEW USERS
PER MONTH

AN AVERAGE OF
12,690
UNIQUE PAGE VIEWS
PER MONTH

From June to September 2018, there has been steady increase in the average number of new users and unique page views per month.

Research A-Z is a dynamic, comprehensive website, adjusting to reflect the constantly changing research environment, as well as the needs of the research community here at the University of Michigan Medical School.

Follow Up

- Narrow search results based on approval or posting date
- Display recent modification history to the researcher (compare and contrast function)
- Option for departments to assign multiple Community Group affiliations
- Shared glossary index across all department domains

Send feedback and ideas to:
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