Finding Aids, LibGuides, & Awesome Tables

Grover Baker
SEMLA Annual Meeting
October 21, 2022
A funny thing happened on the way...
Some background info...

Try to Remember...

~2016  Dept. of Theater & Dance added a minor in Musical Theatre Performance

2017  Worked with J.W. Pepper to order all of the complete vocal scores of musicals in their catalog

2018  As a summer project, a student worker began creating A list of every musical to win or be nominated for a Tony Award

2019  A 2nd student worker completed & updated the list
Hey kids, let’s put on a LibGuide...

Ya Got Trouble...

- Tables are problematic (to say the least!)
- 350+ entries are *waaaaaaay* too many for one table
- Began experimenting
  - tabs for each year
  - drop down menu with years
- No good solution
Don’t be afraid to ask...

Everything’s Coming up Roses...

• Began talking to other librarians at work
• Denise Quintel, Discovery Services Librarian, was experimenting with using Awesome Table for our Staff Directory
  • Google Sheets
  • Interactive
  • Could be embedded in LibGuides as a Media/Widget
Nuts and bolts...

Putting It Together...

- **Grover:**
  - Decided what information (columns) to include
  - Cleaned up the spreadsheet

- **Students:**
  - Added URLs
  - Double checked those links

- **Denise:**
  - Created a Google account for Walker Music
  - Created the “Tony Awards Table” app in Awesome Table
  - Embedded the widget in the Tony Awards LibGuide
  - Provided detailed instructions on how to edit the content
Show me...

https://library.mtsu.edu/tony-awards

https://app.awesome-table.com/
## Awesome Table

**Embedding your Awesome Table app**

Choose one of the 3 options below to embed your app in your website:

- The script option is recommended if it's available to you, as the app will be automatically resized based on your content.
- If you're using a website builder that does not allow you to insert a script, you can choose the Direct link or the iframe option.

You will find more information in our documentation if required.

**CID Direct Link**

**iframe**

**script**

**STEP 1:** Paste this `<script>` tag inside the `<head>` section of your website.

```html
<script src="https://app.awesome-table.com/AwesomeTableInclude.js"></script>
```

**STEP 2:** Paste this `<div>` tag where you want your Awesome Table app to display.

```html
<div data-type="AwesomeTableView" data-controls="" data-viewId="" data-drag="">
</div>
```

### Filtering options

**Desktop preview**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Composer</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Street Scene</td>
<td>Kurt Weill</td>
<td>1947</td>
<td>Special Tony Award</td>
<td>Winner</td>
<td>M1503.W419 88 1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annie Get Your Gun</td>
<td>Irving Berlin</td>
<td>1948</td>
<td>Special Tony Award</td>
<td>Winner</td>
<td>M1503.B54 45 1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Gian-Carlo Menotti</td>
<td>1948</td>
<td>Special Tony Award</td>
<td>Winner</td>
<td>M1503.B474 41 1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiss Me, Kate</td>
<td>Cole Porter</td>
<td>1949</td>
<td>Best Musical</td>
<td>Winner</td>
<td>M1503.P67 K5 1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiss Me, Kate</td>
<td>Cole Porter</td>
<td>1949</td>
<td>Best Musical</td>
<td>Winner</td>
<td>M1503.P67 K5 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Composer</td>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Category</td>
<td>Result</td>
</tr>
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<td>Kiss Me, Kate</td>
<td>Cole Porter</td>
<td>1948</td>
<td>Vocal Score</td>
<td>Best Musical</td>
<td>Winner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guys and Dolls</td>
<td>Frank Loesser</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>Vocal Score</td>
<td>Best Musical</td>
<td>Winner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bell s Are Ringing</td>
<td>Julie Styne</td>
<td>1957</td>
<td>Vocal Scenes</td>
<td>Best Musical</td>
<td>Winner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Come follow the band...
Some *more* background info...

- **Concert and Sight Reading Performance Assessment**
  - Middle Tennessee State Band and Orchestra Association (MTSBOA)
  - Sessions being held at MTSU
  - My son’s band was performing

- **Program booklet**
  - Transcribed every band piece (not the orchestra pieces) into a spreadsheet
  - Assigned student workers to:
    - Check our catalog & add URLs
    - Search the J.W. Pepper site & add URLs
Getting strategic...

- Requested to order the missing scores (150+)
  - All are currently being taught in area middle and high schools
  - Known SOM assignment using band scores to create rehearsal plans
  - “Additional” scores are relatively inexpensive
  - Nearing the end of the fiscal year
Nuts and bolts...

- **Students:**
  - Added call numbers & URLs as they processed the scores

- **Denise:**
  - Provided detailed instructions on how to:
    - Import and set up the Google Sheet
    - Connect the Google Sheet to Awesome Table
    - Create and embed the media/widget in the LibGuide

- **Grover:**
  - Cleaned up the spreadsheet
  - Set up the Google Sheet and connected it to Awesome Table
  - Embedded the widget into the LibGuide
Band Scores

https://library.mtsu.edu/band
33 1/3
Even more background info...

33 1/3

• “… a series of short books about popular music, focusing on individual albums by artists …”

• Several MTSU faculty have written books in the series

• Supports the curriculum in the Department of Recording Industry and the School of Music

• MTSU lost online access to the complete 33 1/3 series of books when we cancelled our subscription to Bloomsbury Popular Music
Nuts and bolts...

- **Student:**
  - Assigned this to one of my student workers as a summer project
  - Used the Bloomsbury website and their WordPress site to generate a spreadsheet.
  - Checked the list against our catalog
  - Added call numbers and URLs to the catalog record for print copies
  - Added URLs for the ebooks

- **Grover:**
  - Cleaned up the spreadsheet
  - Spot-checked call numbers & links
  - Set up and connected the Google Sheet
  - Created the LibGuide and embedded the table as a widget
Issues & Considerations

- Paid plan vs. free account
  - Our library has the free version
  - Current limit of 500 pageviews (no limit in 2019 when our account was created)
  - No counter but begin receiving emails at 50% and a green banner appears
  - Work-around:
    - Create a copy of the Google Sheet
    - Import it as a new Awesome Table
    - Edit the widget as needed in your LibGuide

- Embedding Awesome Table’s Iframe code doesn’t display as well as embedding the Script

- If your data doesn’t need to be updated often, a searchable HTML table may be a better option... if you can code!
Benefits

• Good PR!
  • “the band score library is awesome – what a great resource! I’ll be spending some serious time figuring out how to leverage it well for Instrumental Materials in the spring.”
  • “This new resource that you created is amazing ... Thank you for such a thoughtful project ... I anticipate poking around the shelves a lot more now.”

• All three projects have been a great tool for collection development
Next steps

• Annually update Tony Awards
  • Check for newly published “Selections from...” and complete vocal scores
  • Add “Best Play” nominees and winners?
• Obtain CPA program and check for new compositions
• 33 1/3 series is constantly adding new volumes
  • Request new titles & update table
  • Consider adding cover image thumbnails
• What else might be a good candidate for an Awesome Table?
• Watch for the “green banner” and emails!
Questions?