

# Updating Research Guides for Scholars Portal Data Services

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## The Project

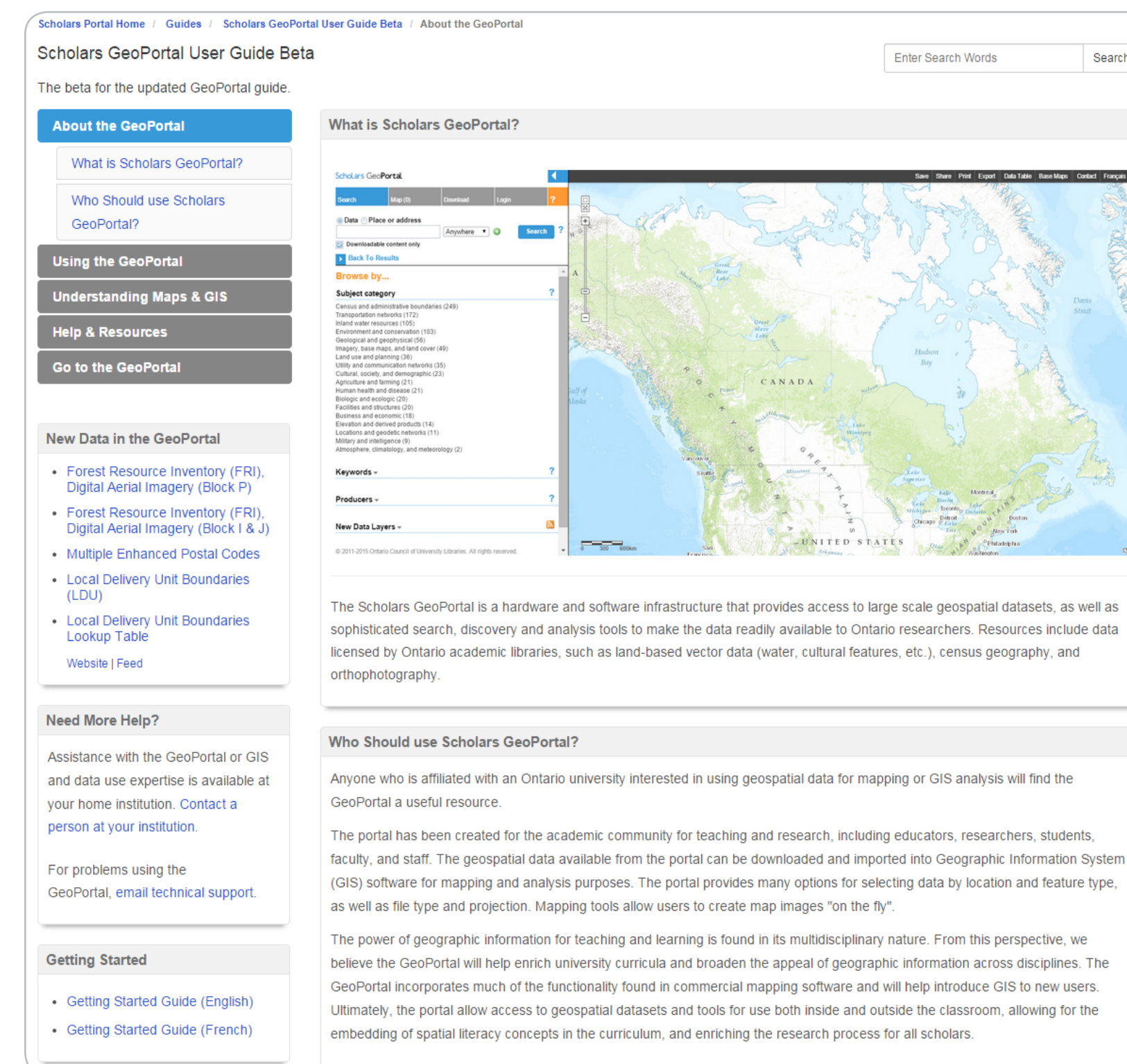
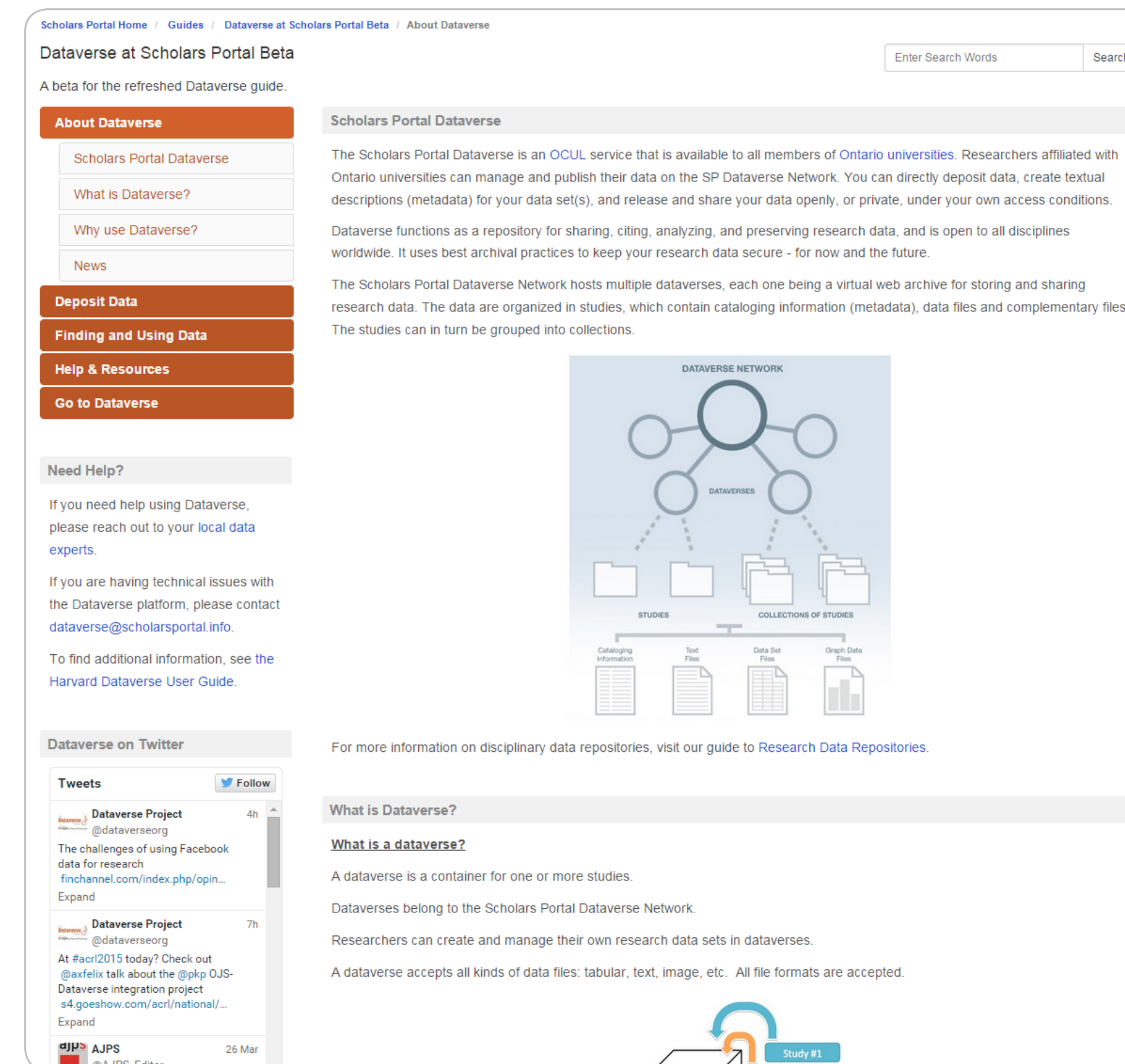
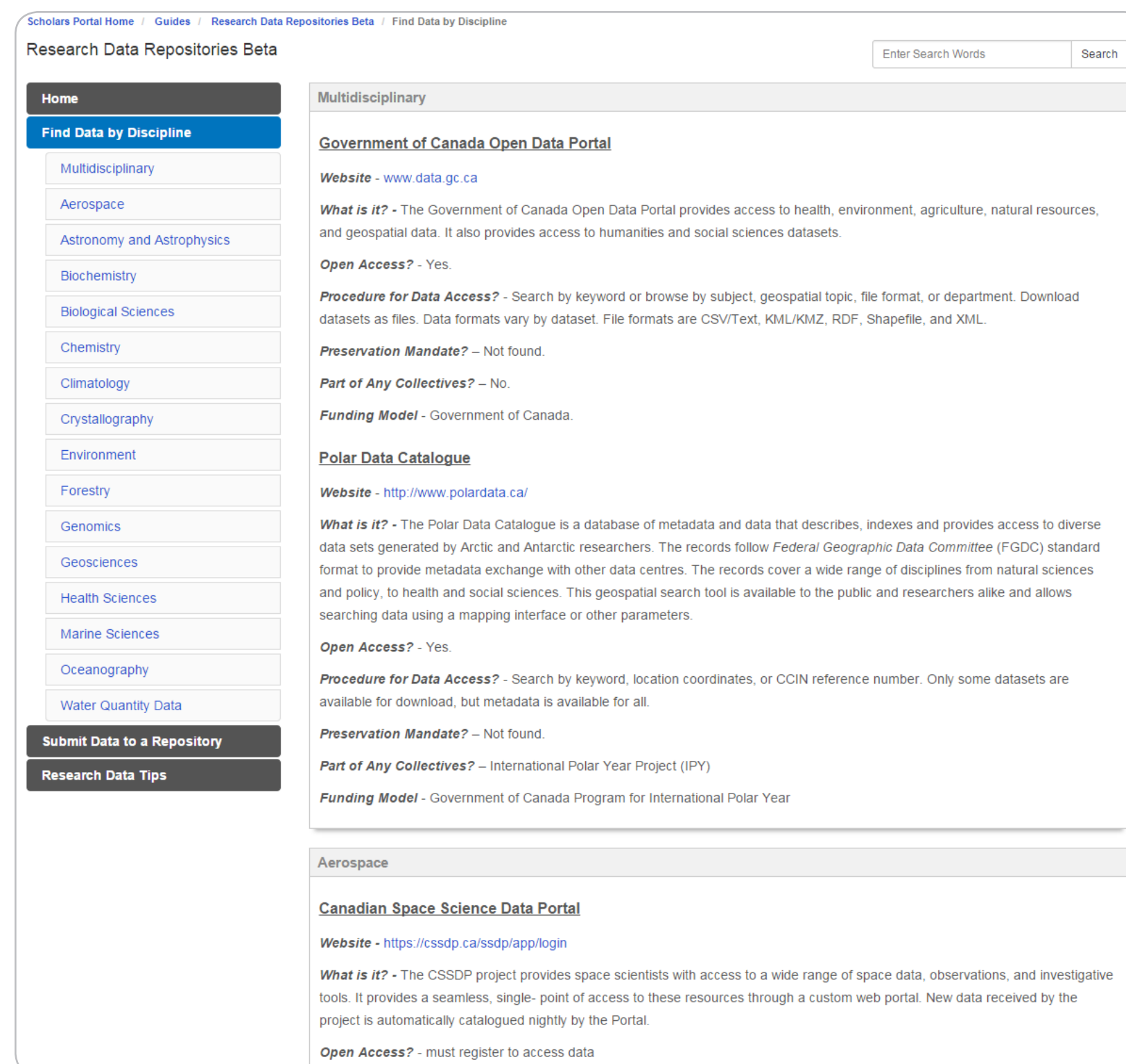
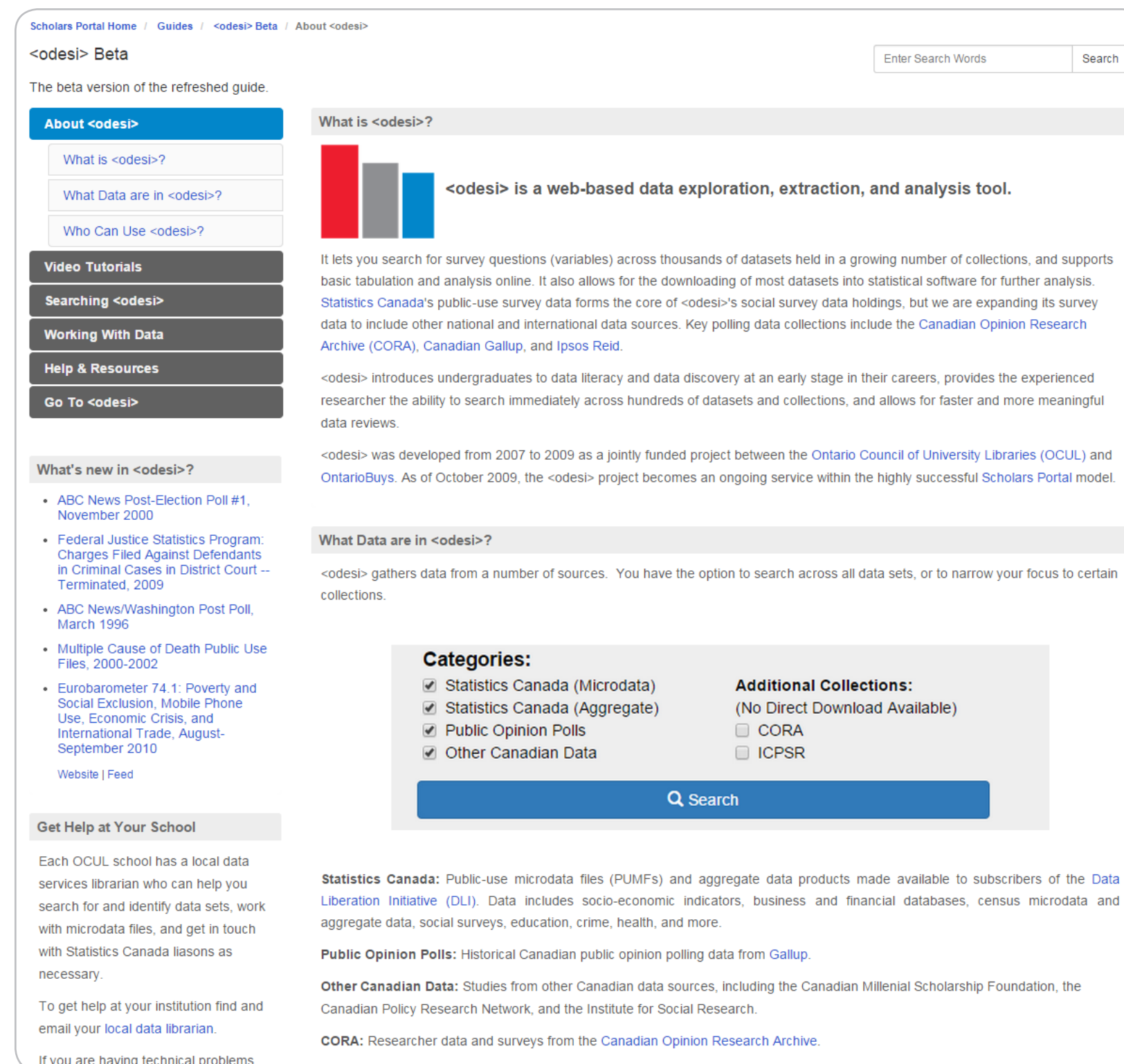
Data services at Scholars Portal are made up of three core platforms:

- <odesi>, a catalogue and data repository that contains social survey data, including Statistics Canada data;
- Scholars GeoPortal, a geospatial data discovery tool; and
- Dataverse, a repository that researchers can deposit their research data into for sharing and preservation

This project's goal was to update the guides for these services and improve the user experience and design.

## The Process

1. View analytics in LibGuides system to make structure and design decisions
2. Customize design using built-in features and HTML / CSS
3. Explore the data platform to determine potential missing content in the guide
4. Reduce content into 3-5 top-level menu items
5. Explore additional resources of interest for the guide, including content from other universities or government
6. Modify HTML & CSS to make the guide mobile-friendly and more accessible



## Challenges

- Information structure decisions
- Limitations of the Libguides system
- Considering multiple user groups
- Creating a more accessible and mobile-friendly design

## Tools and Applications

- LibGuides content management system
- Web Accessibility Checker and WCAG
- ColorPicker
- HTML / CSS guides from W3schools
- Awesome Screenshot extension
- SublimeText editor
- Chrome developer tools
- Google Sheets
- Trello project management tool

## Recommendations

- Reduce the number of top-level menus to create a more straightforward user experience, and consider omitting secondary menus
- Customize HTML and CSS to improve the guide design
- Increase font sizes to improve the visual accessibility
- Don't just be a content curator - be a creator too!