

The OCCC Library

THE HEART OF THE COLLEGE

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The Library in the Digital Age

- “The Library is the heart of the University,” said Charles William Eliot, President of Harvard University for over 40 years.
- Albert Einstein was often quoted as saying: “The only thing that you absolutely have to know is the location of the Library.”
- Historically we know the value of the Academic Library– but what about in today’s digital age?
- **The Library continues to be the heart of the college –this is the story of our eLibrary.**



What prompted our shift to online resources?

- It started gradually. In 2009, shortly after moving into our new building, we began to look at the cost and security of our peer-reviewed journals— as compared to online databases.
- Around the same time, writing faculty came to us requesting more electronic resources to expand students' access to a greater number of articles. We began growing our electronic offerings. Thank you, State Library, OCCDLA, and consortium pricing through Orbis Cascade Alliance. 😊
- In 2015, we took a hard look at accreditation Standard 2.E.1; how were we doing, really? Knowing that electronic resources would provide access to resources to support classes and programs “wherever offered and however delivered,” we continued to acquire eResources looking to fill the gaps.
- By 2016, we doubled-down on our efforts after being charged to develop an emergency contingency plan, in preparation for an unforeseen catastrophe. (Fire? Natural disaster? Explosion?) We completed the plan in 2017, but we didn't have all the pieces in place... 😞

The Missing Pieces – So Challenging



- Library resources were on the library webpage, using library cards and passwords – eResources need to be protected by authentication.
- Writing instructors complained that the students often didn't make it to the Library page and were distracted by Google and Wikipedia.
- Cyber security threats.
- How will students find the resources? (point-of-need)
- How to put help and instruction at point-of-need.



The Solution

After conversations with other academic librarians, it was decided to use a cloud-based program developed by Springshare called LibGuides, to host the platform.

This platform could be integrated into Canvas directly, using an LTI, thus eliminating the need for passwords or further authentication 😊

Library resources would appear in every course, every term. Automagically.

Help guides & video tutorials could be placed next to the resource.

Content and Services

Modeled after our Physical Library ;)

- Over 246,000 academic eBooks.
- Two streaming video platforms.
- Over 100 databases including full text peer-reviewed articles, primary sources, video, newspapers, and more.
- Online Periodicals (Flipster).
- Mango Languages (70+).
- Government Documents.
- Reference items.
- Asynchronous OCCC Librarian help via “Ask a Librarian.”
- Professional Librarian help 24/7 via Answerland.
- InterLibrary Loan article requests via databases.
- Video tutorials and handouts at point-of-need. Tools!



The Solution, a Compliment, and the Big Test



The solution was integrated into the LMS and tested by faculty & students in the Summer of 2019. We went live, in all classes in Sep 2019!

Visited by NWCCU's Dr. Mindy Coslor in Oct 2019!



“Compliment: The evaluation committee compliments the Library Manager on her creative solution for providing online database authentication at no additional cost to the institution.”

We couldn't have known that the eLibrary would be fully put to the test in Spring 2020, as the College closed due to Covid 19. The College and Library were closed in March 2020, and remained closed, for the most part, until Summer 2021.



During this time, the Librarian worked remotely functioning primarily as an Electronic Resources Librarian, responsible for the eResource lifecycle: acquiring, providing access, administering, providing support, and evaluating/monitoring. Also important was providing instruction, and being available to answer reference questions via Ask a Librarian, Zoom, or email. We were so strong!!! 😊

Afterward, We Listened

- Faculty gave suggestions on some additional resources to add to the eLibrary, but no other changes. They were extremely happy with the outcome.
- Students loved the ease of finding information– and no one missed logging in with Library Card numbers!
- Students said they enjoyed having library activities, contests, and surveys online, and hoped that would continue. We promised they would!



Where are we today and what are working on now?

- We continue to operate today within our **eLibrary**, while the physical library serves as one of the key public spaces on campus for students to study, collaborate, and check out supplemental items. (And we have new PCs!)
- Library staff strive to create a welcoming, inclusive, and engaging learning environment to support their academic studies. (Meeting our Core Themes!)
- The way we market resources has changed. We invest time in connecting with faculty and showing them resources during Teaching & Learning Day and New Faculty Orientation. When a faculty member comes in and asks to see student resources and services, I say “pull up a chair, let me show you our eLibrary!”
- We offer more activities, contests, and surveys *online* for students, marketed via Canvas and social media. If something is for just the students on campus (study rooms, etc), we mostly advertise with sandwich boards, ad boards, and flyers for just that segment of the population.
- In the works: Chat bot, laptop budget line, OERs, (eventually maybe virtual study rooms?)



No Library is an Island – We are User-Centered!



- Libraries are the Heart of the College (like in a circulatory system)! We are so **STRONG** together!



Our thanks to:

- Academic Library Directors: Dr. Donna Reed, PCC; Luke Kralik, Clatsop CC; Carol McGeehon, Umpqua CC.
- Faculty who made suggestions and test-drove the product. (Kitty Pavlish, Jeanne Markel & others)
- The students in LIB 101 that agreed to have an informal chat and give their opinions.
- NWCCU Visitor: Dr. Mindy Coslor.
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