Library Online: Resources at a Distance

Presented by Anne Grant

I’m here to talk about the library and its versatility as far as distance learning or online learning. We found that any of our students even if they are on campus are distance students because they are interacting with our resources in a way that somebody who is off campus would interact. In fact we get students who will text us or chat with us in the next room who ask where a book is or where the bathroom is, where the water fountain is on this floor. We often engage and interact with students on campus as much as we would with students in Siberia. It is kind of interesting, the fact that the library can and does do this kind of interaction with students that is on a day to day basis online. Resources that we have strictly available via our online platforms, we’ve got eBooks, eJournals, we’ve got online assistance. Our eJournals and eBooks, we have over 40,000 journals that are only online and we still get lots of questions about if I access a journal online is it an internet resource, is it a print resource. Many of our journals are coming only online now so we have switched gears to cancel our print subscription and only get online journals. Technically they are print resources as well. The eBooks we have, some eBooks are available at CCIT for the books 24/7. We also through the libraries have access to eBooks in different platforms. We have a whole lib guide set up, I will show you guys in just a minute to talk about the different eBook interfaces. Some you can interact with and highlight in, save and print from, and some are a little more restrictive. Bottom line is they get you the access online right where you need it. Online assistance like I just talked about with chatting and texting, we have so many ways that you can interact with librarians and library staff online. Like I said you can chat, you can call us, we have a toll free number, we’ve got document delivery, I will talk about that in a minute. Our interlibrary loan service, so often now when you request a document by interlibrary loan it comes in a pdf format and you get it online so technically as a distance student you shouldn’t be intimidated by the fact that if we don’t own it then we can’t get it because you can request it by interlibrary loan and get it delivered right to your computer. Course reserves, if you are a distance faculty member and you are teaching online via Blackboard, we can find materials, put them in eReserves for you, give your students access seamlessly so that they can have the things they need. It can be as simple as a faculty member’s perspective and just say I need these 10 articles available online in the eReserves and we will find them for you, we will upload them and put them in there for you. It makes it really easy, it is one of those services that people say they didn’t know about. We are here to make it easy for you. With things like RefWorks that will allow you to manage your bibliographies and resources into a database of your creation that you can create bibliographies very easily.

The people, we have subject librarians that are in every area in the history librarians so if you have questions that are specifically geared to my area then I can help you answer those. You can email me, you can call me, you can text me, we are going to help you get to the information you need to. We’ve got helpful staff in our document delivery areas, again toll free number, chat, email, text. I can’t reinforce enough all the different ways you can get in touch with us.

Building on that eReserves topic, the ability to get streaming media to you. If there is a movie you want to watch through your course reserves we are working on where we have a system for those ordering those and it is called swank video, if the video that you want is in their list of resources then we can stream that for you and it takes care of all the copyright licensing. It is all available on a platform so you can insert your own notes, you can interact in the movie in a way that is educational. We also have a lot of the films for the humanities, we can get via streaming media and we can put that up on your Blackboard page as well. We have tutorials that can introduce students to the things we have, I will talk about those in a minute.

These are our libguides (<http://libguides.clemson.edu>). We can create one of these for your classes, for a particular class if you have some resources that you want to guide students to in particular, we can create a whole guide of your class. We can include resources, we can direct link to articles, hints and tips about finding things, link to the database for RefWorks and citing, all kinds of ways that we can engage with your students in a way that makes the library much more manageable. Sometimes if you say to your students go to the library’s webpage and find the resources, they can get overwhelmed or they will just bypass it all together and go to Google, which I don’t necessarily frown upon because Google has a lot of advantages but you also want it to balance out with some of the library resources as well. Libguides is one of the ways you can hone in on the particular resources you want them to look for.

Here, I was talking about the eBook’s platform. We have all of these different eBook collections and that’s one of the reasons librarians still have jobs, is that information is not all in one place and it isn’t all in one neat package because people always want to make money off of information. Every eBook’s platform works differently because each company owns it and runs it differently. It just means that it can get complicated when you are trying to find information but you can bypass all of that complexity and just go to your librarian and say that you need access to that book, period. Make it happen, and that’s what we do. It’s like the Staples easy button, if you mash it, it will help you and if you ignore it, you may spend a lot of time trying to find stuff you can’t get to. Remember that you have those resources there that can help you.

Again I wanted to make sure you knew about the course guides because that is really pivotal as far as getting students access to the resources. This is an example of a really good libguide because again these will directly link to articles so that is a really nice way to connect your students to resources. Of course one of the things you might want to remember is that if you have a page like this and you say ok you guys need 10 print sources, the chances are that your bibliographies are going to look like the 10 sources you posted on your libguide. That is not necessarily a bad thing because you are directing them to the research. Is it more important that they know how to find it, or the good information, or maybe this could be an introductory thing. That’s another thing that librarians can help you do, if you want to contact your subject librarian and say listen, I want my students to be able to do X, this is the kind of research I want them to be able to do. Ask your librarian, say hey, what would be the best assignment that would help my students best understand this concept as far as research goes. That’s why we went to school, to learn how to do that research process and how to do the searching and the databases and if that is what you want your students to walk away with, let us help you in assignment design. A lot of professors will say go to the library and let’s make a scavenger hunt. What happens is if you say to go find X book, the first student who finds that book hides it or checks it out or takes it somewhere. Then we end up with 4 or 5 students saying we were suppose to find this book and it isn’t there or they just come up to the desk with a piece of paper and say I need to find these five things can you do that? That gets back to our experience of working with students in those assignments and the research side of it. Not that faculty aren’t experts in research but it is just one of those things that you can just hit the easy button and say this is one side of it, the critical thinking piece, the research piece that I want a librarian to help me with and that’s what we can do as well.

Copyright and eReserves, if you have questions about copyright issues, we do have our librarian that specializes in that topic and works with our university council to figure out how the information that you are sharing is legit. There are lots of issues out there with lawsuits and what can you use and what can’t you use, what is legal, what isn’t legal. Just ask us if you have any questions and we can be a resource for you along with university council. We are also, for faculty and students, working on an institutional repository, which is a place where you can put your publications so that they can be openly accessible to the world. A good example I give of this is that there was somebody in Nebraska, at a university, was doing research on Ethiopian farming and they had this technique that was vastly going to improve output. Well they put the draft, before they sent it to the journal, which is the goal, they put their draft in the institutional depository and their other copy was sent to a journal and was published to a journal that you had to buy access to it. The open access copy in the institutional depository, it’s usage blew up and you can trace your usage of how many people hit your article and guess where the majority of the hits came from? Ethiopia. Where it was needed. Those Ethiopian people were the ones that were accessing the article that my not have had access to it otherwise depending on their university subscriptions but this was something you could find on Google, it was freely available and it increases the impact of your publications massively. It is just something to think about but that is what our copyright librarian is working with as well, is our institutional repository.

Document delivery is also available for on campus or off campus, if you have items that you need, if you find an article that’s in the library in print but you can’t get to it online, ask us and we will pdf it and send it to you. You need a book chapter? We will pdf it and send it to you. Just make sure you know all of these services are available to you. That same goes with posting copyrighted information on your reserves. We handle all the copyright fees because you do have to pay royalties if any kind of royalties are necessary, we will take care of all of that. Copyright education is something we are going to start on because I know there was a library employee who was in a class and the professor wrote the book for the class and he made a pdf of the book and sent it to everyone in his class. He thought since he wrote the book he had the right to send it but you don’t. You are violating copyrights because you are taking away the publisher’s rights, you sign away those rights when you publish your book with a publishing house. That’s a big no no so we as a library take care of those royalty fees. We would pay whatever that publishing company wanted to share the book and figure out how to do that. That is just part of the education system we are setting up with our copyright guy too.

The fun stuff, it isn’t all about library research, we do have library social media. We have Twitter, we have Facebook, and we are on Instagram. There are contests that we do, you can win a coffee gift card, iTunes stuff, so just some things to watch out for. We have a great library blog, it was mentioned in a blog about being a really great library blog, so something to keep up with. We do have downloadable audio books, one click digital, you can access from off campus, you can put it on your iPad and play it in the car. We’ve got popular eBooks that you can download and read on your devices. We have an online library map so if you are off campus and want to check out what the library has you can get to that as well. This shows you what is in the library and what floors they are on so if you are off campus and you are a distance students and you are planning one trip to campus and you really are an ambitious planner, you can find out where the books are located and what libraries you are going to, what locations. This shows you where all the call numbers are so if you have a call number you can find out what floor it is on. Then when you get here you can maximize your time here. We also have a service where we will pull books and bring them to the circulation desk. If you are off campus, if you are a faculty or student on campus you can request that the library pull the book so it will be waiting for you at the desk, you can check them out then leave and it saves you some time and energy there too.

The other thing about coming to the library, if you are a distance student or you have students that are distance, we have reciprocal borrowing arrangements with pretty much any school you can imagine. If your students are near a different library, they can use that library and use those resources using their Clemson id card. At UGA we have a reciprocal borrowing agreement with them, pretty much any college in South Carolina, we have an agreement with them. You can even return items from Clemson to those libraries within our system and we can get all of those books returned within the system. It just makes it easier for drop off and return. We do deliver to the university center if you have classes that are over there, we have a document delivery site that we can deliver stuff to there too. We have these fun tutorials and we will be developing more and more of these. While we do offer library workshops, we are taking a hiatus from that in the spring and we are going to revaluate making these chunky pieces and putting them where people might need them like in a database to say do you need some help looking for this. We hope to be able to embed ourselves as librarians more in the Blackboard courses so that you could as an instructor, go in and pick. Say I know that my students are going to have to go in and pick their journals and databases, I know they will have to know the difference between scholarly and popular and I know they have to know about the librarians and how they can help us. You can go in and pick from a list of all of these tutorials, put those in your Blackboard course and just tell your students, hey go look at these tutorials and make sure you get the right help at the library. We are finding that our gateway to the students is through the faculty because if the faculty know about us and they talk about us to the students, then that is where they are going to get the value out of the libraries. Students come in with a confidence, just as we all do and you think, well I know how to search online, I know how to find information. If I put a search in Google, I can get 40,000 results, sure I’m a good researcher. It is understanding that next level, I need to find the 1940 census data and I’m not finding it on a quick Google search, where do I go next? It is that sort of level of research that we want to be at in that just time point in need.

Really the library is where you need it, whether it is getting online and finding help when you need it, knowing to find help when you need it, finding these tutorials that you can embed in your course, letting us be involved via the libguides or other kinds of support, helping you with assignments, anything, we are here to help. We are here to make your life easier, just remember that as you go forward. I want to know if you guys have questions for me about the library at a distance or something I didn’t cover.

We have a libguide set up for music, we’ve got some online music libraries. I will show you how to get there. You can go from our homepage to the tab that says libguides. You can also go to Where Can I Find? and there is a music link here. Here you’ve got music online and CDs. It takes you to a whole bunch of online archives. A lot of times if it falls under academic purposes it falls under the fair use. I think the university if going towards compliance with the Teach Act, right now we don’t have a copyright policy for the university. Once we do we will fall under the Teach Act and it will be a little bit easier to share online but for now this is one of the options.

The first question was about accessing music online that you can use for projects, that was where I showed the music libguide. The second question was about accessing resources if you are off campus and you need to contact the library to get a list of resources that you want to use in a project. All you have to do is contact the librarian by email, chat, text and say I need these resources, even if you aren’t sure about the entire citation. The librarians can help you get the resources to wherever you are from here.

Another questions about getting images, copyright free images. There are some techniques we used for searching. One is probably one that a lot of people use, if you go to Google images there is an option that you can search for copyright free material. If you go out to Flickr and do a search, lets just do dogs. You can do an advanced search over here on the side that will at the bottom says only search within Creative Commons-licensed content. With this you can limit to find content to use commercially or find content to modify, adapt, or build upon. It will limit searches to within that. We do have from our home page. If you go to Start Your Research and Art, we’ve got a great tab on finding images. Here you can find license subscriptions. These are digital libraries of different collections. Artstor is a collection of over a million images of architecture, painting, sculpture, photography, gun and architecture slide. These are for teaching purposes so if you wanted to present slides. Oxford art online, and these are open access image collections so National Gallery of Art, World Images. Our art librarian has collected a lot of resources that are pretty reliable.