How science and engineering students access electronic resources: moving to a new Discovery layer

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Science and engineering students: how do they access our electronic resources?
All Wales Higher Education Libraries Forum institutions (WHELF) have implemented, or are currently implementing Ex Libris Alma and Primo
How will a discovery layer change the way they engage with our resources?
How will a discovery layer change the way I instruct?
What are students going to appreciate about our new discovery layer?
What do I need to plan for/think through?
Talking to students will help, and “trialling” in the first year after launch
It will be useful to be able to search across more than one database, we usually just go straight to IEEE Xplore, but some of us are doing dissertations that are interdisciplinary. Students are not going to be worried about this change, they will find it easy to narrow their search and get to the resources they need. You don't need to make special effort to meet current students, they will come to use it when they need it, and they will probably think the new catalogue has been around for years but that they have never found it before. They will find it easy to use and will just get on with it. They already go to many weird and wonderful websites now to get stuff. Many students I know never use the library catalogue, they don't use books and they don't want to come into the library, but now they may be drawn back into using the library catalogue because it will look cool and have more resources for them.

3rd year Electronic Engineering student
Preferred "narrow your search" to "refine your search", would like "expand your results" to be renamed "include articles with no full text access"

*Masters student Chemistry (international student)*
Would be fine if it was called Library Catalogue still, stick with what we know. Use mobile phones a lot to search. Thinks library staff should have a session in every "study skills" module 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 3\textsuperscript{rd} year. Suggests that in the first year we produce some stats on which schools are using it most, and do a competition. Do not think other students will find this change difficult, think they will all just get on with it.

\textit{Two first year UG Chemistry students}
Thinks it's important to let students know who like and are used to the old catalogue that you can still search in the same way as the old catalogue allowed, just print collections at one site and journal and e-journal titles

*3rd year Chemistry student*
Is it about me?
What to do next?

What’s your advice?
“The journey is the reward.”
– Chinese Proverb
References


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