USTLG conference May 2016
Chester University
Student engagement with the library and its resources

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

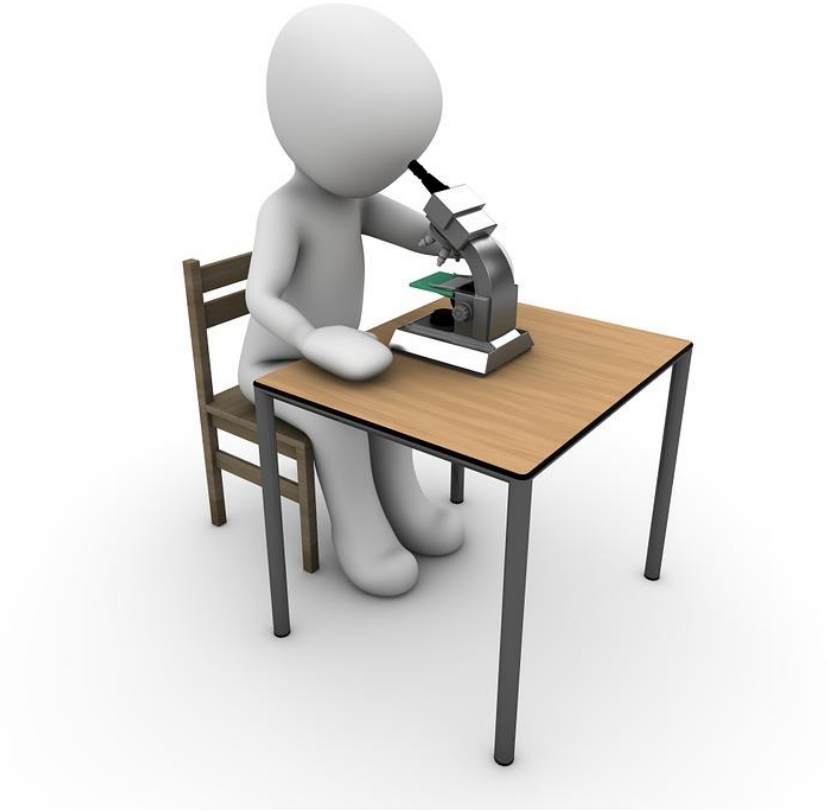
Dr Beth Hall
Bangor University

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY

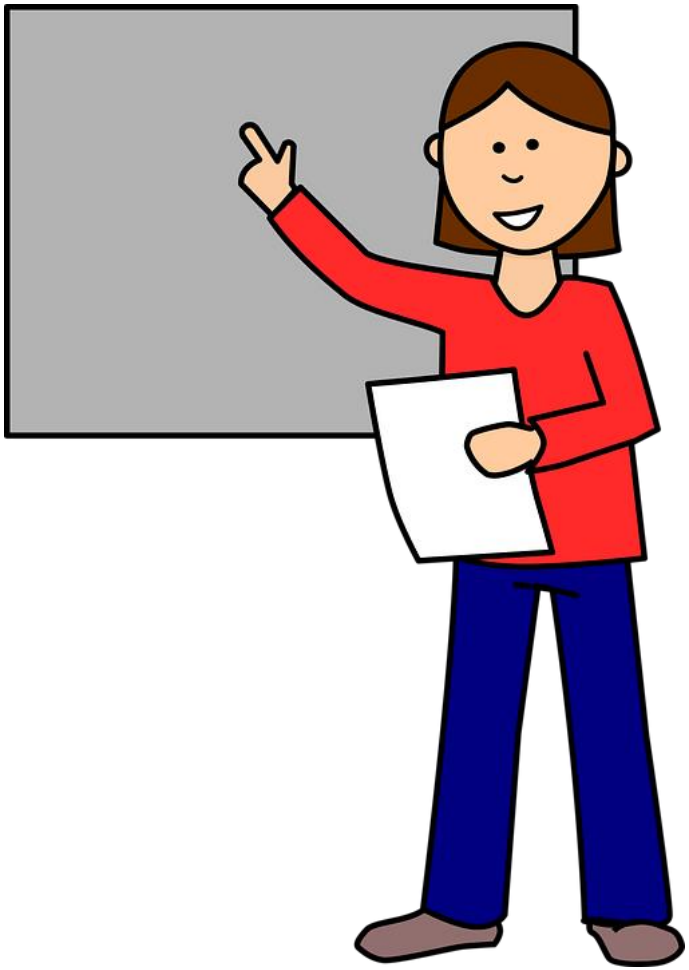
Science and engineering students: how do they access our electronic resources?

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?

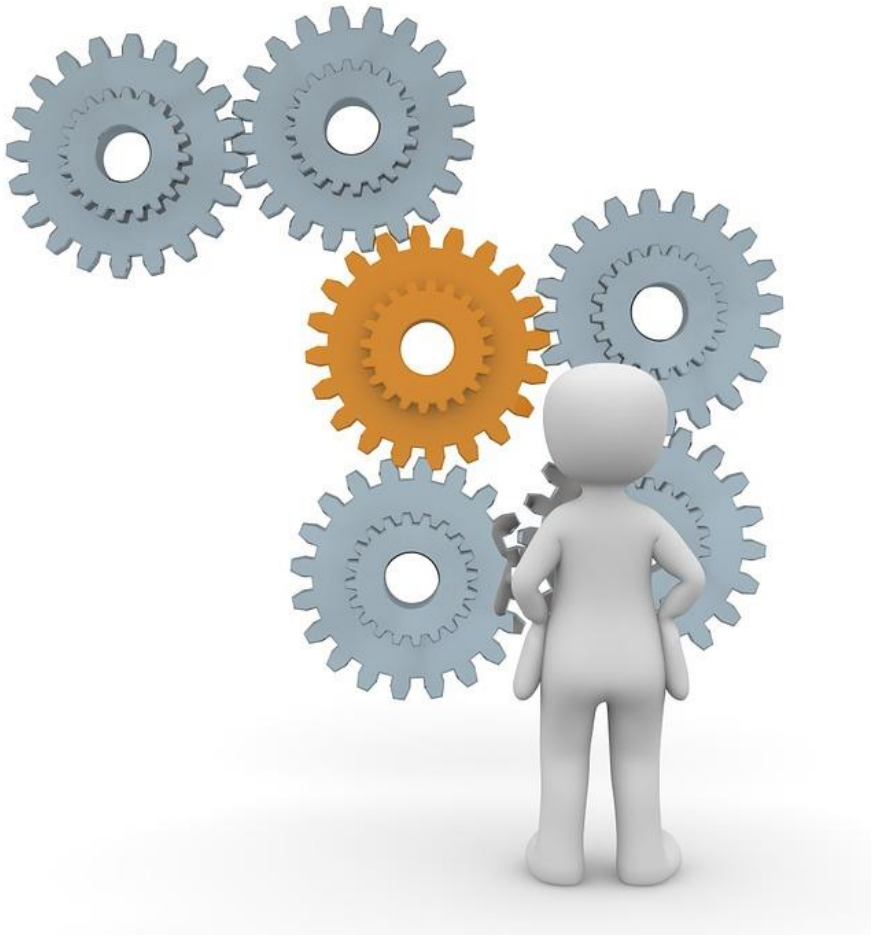


How will a discovery layer change the way I instruct?

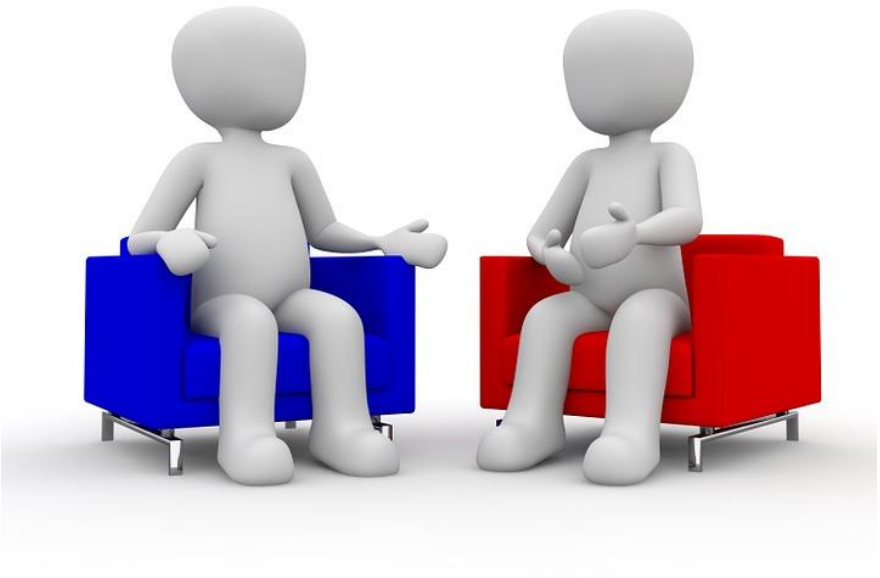


What are students going to appreciate about our new discovery layer?

What do I need to plan for/think through?

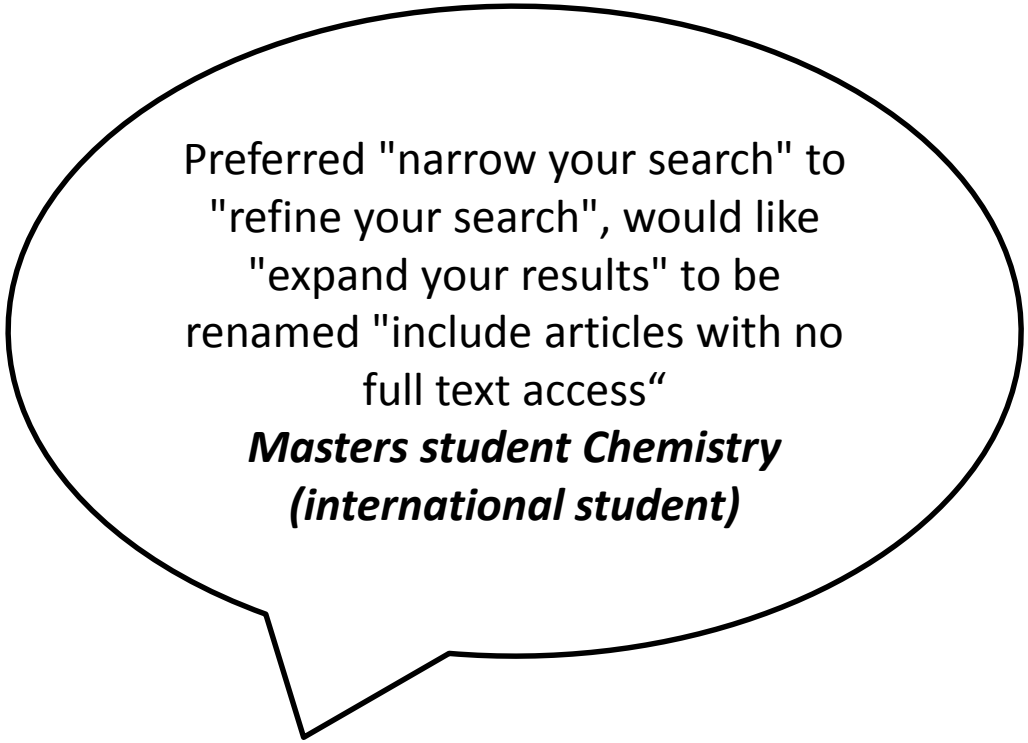


Talking to students will help, and “trialling” in the first year after launch



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 1st, 2nd and 3rd 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.

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

- Allen, N.D., 2015. Utilizing discovery tools for classrooms: how do librarian attitudes on discovery impact tools they teach?. *Library Hi Tech News*,*32*(1), pp.8-12.
- Azadbakht, E.S., 2015. Information literacy instruction with Primo. *Reference & User Services Quarterly*, *54*(3), p.23.
- Brett, K.R., Lierman, A. and Turner, C., 2016. Lessons Learned: A Primo Usability Study. *Information Technology and Libraries*, *35*(1), pp.7-25.
- Bull, S., Craft, E. and Dodds, A., 2014. Evaluation of a resource discovery service: FindIt@ Bham. New Review of Academic Librarianship, 20(2), pp.137-166.
- Costello, D., 2016. Tips for Customizing EBSCO Discovery Service for Students. Blog post. February 18th 2016. https://discovery.ebsco.com/pulse/category/user-research
- Hanrath, S. and Kottman, M., 2015. Use and usability of a discovery tool in an academic library. *Journal of Web Librarianship*, *9*(1), pp.1-21.
- Stohn, C. 2015. How Do Users Search and Discover? Findings from Ex Libris User Research.

Images are all CC0 from pixabay https://pixabay.com/