Helping undergraduate students discover literature and prepare for graduate school

How trusted research tools can help undergraduates locate journals and learn about the practices around peer-reviewed literature.

Customer

Berry College

Solution

Web of Science™

Challenge

Berry college needed to help students identify relevant journals in the college's literature collection and gain exposure to research tools and methodologies that are key to graduate studies.

Outcome

The Web of Science helps students prepare for their graduate career by introducing one of the most important research tools for the sciences. It also enhances discoverability of the best journal resources for student research activity at Berry.



Founded in 1902, Berry College is a private liberal-arts college located in Rome, Georgia in the U.S. Berry College emphasizes the importance of student academic engagement, and several programs provide funding support that enables students to engage in significant research activities.

Nearly half of Berry's science graduates go on to post-graduate programs.

Berry's curriculum includes emphasis on using the practices (for example, terminology, methods, writing style) of the particular field of study.

Science majors are introduced to the

use of peer reviewed papers early in their undergraduate programs. The Memorial Library and its staff at Berry College promote academic freedom, foster intellectual growth and creative expression, providing the tools for learning, teaching, and scholarship.

What challenges was Berry College facing?



Finding relevant journals in the college's literature collection

The college has invested in providing full-text access to scientific journals from major science publishers such as Springer and Wiley. While Berry was using a number of bibliographic resources, students and faculty weren't utilizing the full text to its potential. As a result, the library was looking for a comprehensive tool across multiple scientific fields, including animal science, to effectively surface relevant content and link users to full text.



Exposing students to research tools and methodologies

Berry's focus on "first-hand experience" is interpreted in the science majors as doing original research with faculty. For example, in biology, chemistry, physics, animal science, and mathematics there is a significant amount of undergraduate published research. As such, science majors need to be introduced to the use of peer-reviewed literature early in their undergraduate programs. New interdisciplinary science programs in Environmental Science and One Health reinforced the requirement to have a comprehensive research discovery platform.

"Memorial Library has strong collections in the sciences, including electronic access to the complete journal lists of major science publishers. But the discovery tools to fully expose that journal literature to students and faculty were not available."

Sherre Harrington

Library Director, Liaison to School of Math & Natural Science, Berry College

Introducing research tools to help science undergraduates find journals and learn about the practices around peer-reviewed literature

Berry College provides the Science Citation Index Expanded™, an edition of the Web of Science Core Collection™, to undergraduates at the School of Mathematics & Natural Sciences. The Web of Science Core Collection is the world's most trusted multidisciplinary citation index. Journal articles, conference papers, book chapters, Open Access material – all can be accessed through one interface, using a variety

of powerful search and analysis tools. With a database of nearly 89 million records and 2 billion cited references, researchers can easily search across multiple disciplines and undertake the most complex search requests in record time.

"The Web of Science has enhanced discoverability of our best resources for student research activity in the sciences.", says Sherre Harrington.

89M

records and 2 billion cited references accessible via the Web of Science Core Collection.



Providing the best tools for discovery and encouraging usage of full-text resources

Undergraduates and faculty at Berry use the Web of Science to find the research relevant to them. They can have confidence that they are seeing trustworthy, impactful research in their field.

With a database of nearly 89 million records and 2 billion cited references, the Web of Science Core Collection enables researchers to easily find research related to interdisciplinary topics.

It also encourages usage of fulltext resources and makes journal content more discoverable with seamless, customizable linking for all records, including a deep backfile.



Equipping students for graduate work with practical tools that support information literacy

Students are better prepared for graduate work by using the Web of Science, one of the essential tools for research.

Using the Web of Science, students can more efficiently locate the most impactful articles and journals in their fields and easily identify the journals, organizations, and researchers that are key players in their field.

"The Web of Science is a wonderful product. We are so pleased to be able to make it available to the community at Berry to familiarize our undergraduates with a critical tool for their future graduate work."

Sherre Harrington

Library Director, Liaison to School of Math & Natural Science, Berry College

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