

Case study | Oglethorpe University

Liberal arts college bolsters science programs with Web of Science

Oglethorpe University leads a consortium of colleges in onboarding foundational research resource for undergraduate research and informational literacy

Oglethorpe University is a private, four year, liberal arts college in the heart of Atlanta, Georgia founded in 1835. Oglethorpe's CORE program is a unique blending of general education combined with a thematic approach to all disciplines. Science is a deeply rooted part of this four year exploration including science majors and non-majors; in addition, a new science building is being planned. In 2016, Oglethorpe's Philip Weltner Library established a new student research development fund to help students in conducting undergraduate research.

A landmark structure

The university is turning to its commitment to a new science building, and the next few years will usher in development of this landmark structure and its programs. In anticipation, the library set a major objective to enhance the science resources available at the university by making Web of Science available to students and faculty at Oglethorpe.

"Putting in place high-quality foundational research tools was identified as crucial both to support our ambitious growth plans for science at Oglethorpe, as well as educating our undergraduates in information literacy and the practices around peer-reviewed journals."

**Anne Salter, University Librarian and
Director of Philip Weltner Library, Oglethorpe University**

Oglethorpe, along with regional college partners, put together a consortium to bring Web of Science to their respective campuses. Today the undergraduates of Oglethorpe University are able to discover the most impactful journal articles indexed in Web of Science and become familiar with the resources used by career researchers.

What challenges was Oglethorpe University facing?

Imperative to build out resources for science expansion

- The university is investing in bolstering the science program with a new building and additional science options.
- Increasingly, science majors from Oglethorpe are moving on to do prestigious graduate work in chemistry and other fields at leading universities.
- In this environment, a world-class science database was critical to supporting the growth of the science department, promoting the university to students, and recruiting faculty.

Teaching information literacy and equipping students for graduate work

- In using published literature students face a number of challenges and pitfalls including information overload and avoiding predatory journals.
- As such, information literacy is an important objective at Oglethorpe – including the peer review process and the importance of citations in finding the most relevant research.
- In addition, because Web of Science is widely used in graduate schools, the university identified proficiency in its usage as an important skill for students.

Oglethorpe University Highlights

The mission of the Philip Welter Library at Oglethorpe University is to provide stakeholders with the skills and resources to effectively evaluate and manage information in a 21st century global environment. As the campus gateway to resources and services, the library supports and enhances educational programs of the university. It is committed to building students' lifelong learning skills in evaluating and applying information.

- Established: 1835
- Students: 1,200
- Location: Brookhaven, Georgia, USA
- Featured product: Web of Science

"Web of Science's powerful search tools for retrieving information by authors, grant numbers, and subjects creates an experience that adheres to the mission of the university to produce critical thinkers and problem solvers."

Anne Salter, University Librarian and
Director of Philip Weltner Library, Oglethorpe University

Solution

Oglethorpe University is offering Web of Science Science Citation Index Expanded to enhance the undergraduate program in the sciences. The solution was delivered to Oglethorpe and a group of smaller, regional colleges who formed a consortium to share costs.

Web of Science is a comprehensive research platform. Journal articles, patents, websites, conference proceedings, Open Access material—all can be accessed through one interface, using a variety of powerful search and analysis tools.

With a database of over 1 billion cited references, researchers can easily search across multiple disciplines and undertake the most complex search requests in record time.

Value delivered

Bolsters the university's science programs with Web of Science

- Web of Science is used by over 7,000 academic and research institutions, national governments, funding organizations, and publishing organizations around the world finding new connections in research every day.
- It is a multi-disciplinary database. By connecting the world's most important scholarship through citations, as opposed to just keywords or subject categories, Web of Science enables researchers to easily find research outside their area of direct expertise.

Facilitates teaching of information literacy and research skills

- Web of Science is an essential teaching tool, helping students to evaluate whether a published paper is valid, respected research.
- It is a painstakingly-selected, actively-curated database of the journals that researchers themselves have judged to be the most important and useful in their fields.

"The partnership with Clarivate Analytics is one that will remain active. The flexibility and commitment by Clarivate Analytics to making resources available to the smaller undergraduate programs is to be commended," says Anne Salter.

About Web of Science Group

Web of Science Group, a Clarivate Analytics company, organizes the world's research information to enable academia, corporations, publishers and governments to accelerate the pace of research. It is powered by *Web of Science* – the world's largest publisher-neutral citation index and research intelligence platform. Its many well-known brands also include *Converis*, *EndNote*, *Kopernio*, *Publons*, *ScholarOne* and the *Institute for Scientific Information (ISI)*. The 'university' of Web of Science Group, ISI maintains the knowledge corpus upon which the index and related information and analytical content and services are built; it disseminates that knowledge externally through events, conferences and publications and it carries out research to sustain, extend and improve the knowledge base. For more information, please visit webofsciencegroup.com.

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