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UNO Libraries Digital Newsletter | May 2021

Spring Semester Reflection

Claire Staub

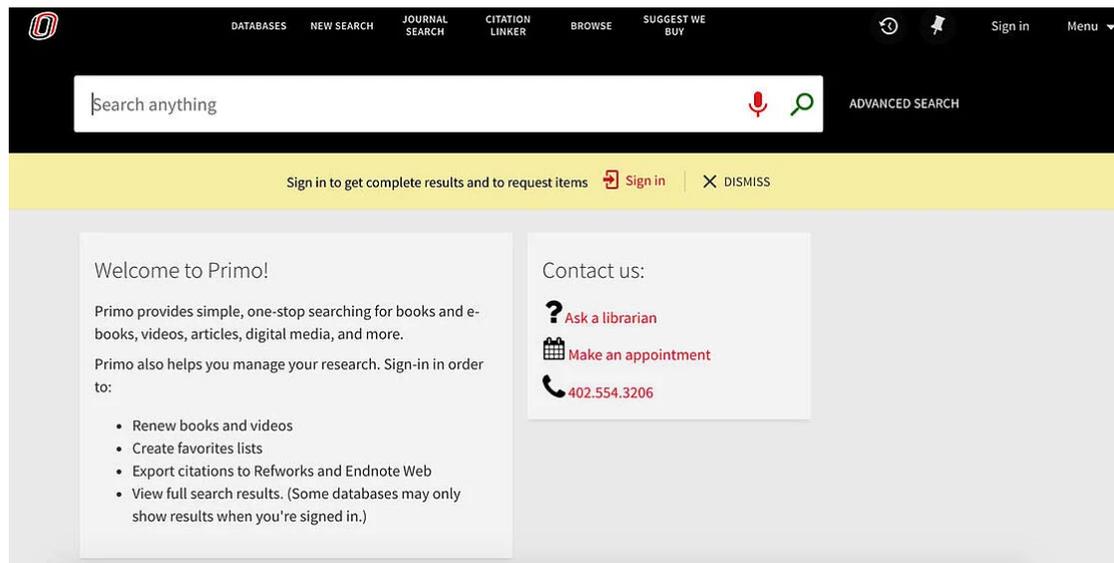
Patron Services

This spring brought us another semester of remote online learning in a de-densified campus. In addition to our online learning services, the library remained open and available for student study. The Creative Production Lab and the Archives and Special Collections unit were available by appointment, and the service desk team increased our hours of operation in March. In this extended edition of BiblioTech, join us in celebrating the ever-changing environment and extra efforts that have been made by the library team. We aim to ensure that our UNO community experiences excellent service from YOUR library!

Library Management System Conversion

Kris Tuel

Patron Services



One of the major changes that happened was switching to a new Library Management System (LMS). In the summer of 2017, UNO, UNK, UNL, and UNMC began the investigative process for the possibility of all campuses moving to the same LMS in the interest of financial and collaborative efficiency and providing a better experience for our users. After nearly 18 months of research, proposals, demonstrations, and meetings, the decision was made to go forward with Ex Libris' Alma and Primo for managing library services for all University of Nebraska campuses.

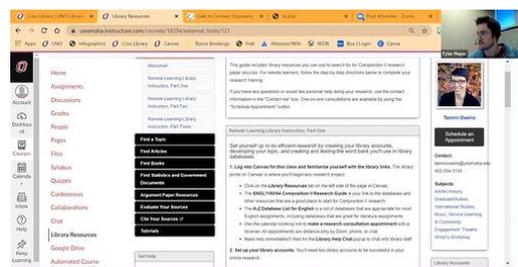
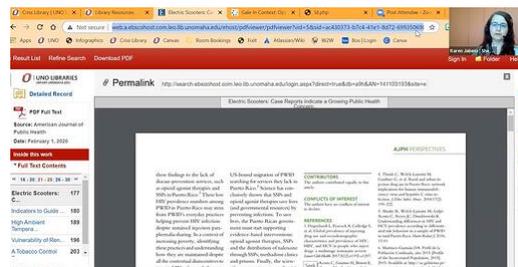
A committee was formed with lead representation from each campus to help make decisions and shepherd the process forward. Working groups were formed to take on specialized sections to ensure nothing was lost during the migration. The initial migration work began in February 2020, with the hand-off from Ex Libris expected on December 21, 2020. While we knew that the involvement of multiple campuses meant the need for virtual meetings, we did not yet know that this would be our only way to meet for the entirety of the project.

Campuses began a shutdown period in mid-March 2020, and the groups working on the project dove into the world of virtual collaboration. It became evident that the Pandemic was not slowing down, it was necessary to embrace the fact that this project would need to be completed in a virtual environment, with no on-campus or in-person meetings available. There were technological, personal, and remote-work challenges that were new to many. Hours of Zoom meetings per week were proving that "Zoom fatigue" is real.

However, these challenges proved to be no match for the dedicated librarians and support staff, and their willingness to put in an enormous amount of effort to complete this project on time. We now have a better working relationship between all campuses and are determined to foster a more collaborative environment to produce better library services for the University of Nebraska system.

Remote Teaching Take Two

Katie Bishop, Monica Maher, Tammi Owens
Research and Instruction



The new LMS system was not the only challenge; transitioning to a successful remote teaching model was another challenge. Members of the Research and Instruction team had to adjust from the norm when it came to all instruction sessions.

This spring was our second full semester delivering Composition II library instruction fully online. With the transition to remote learning, we offered three choices for Comp II instructors. Our Canvas quiz and self-directed learning page on the Comp II library guide include short videos on the concepts and databases we usually teach in person. We also offered instructors synchronous instruction in their Zoom classrooms. We taught 22 sections this way using Google docs for an interactive keywords lesson and a class-sourced bibliography in which students copied citations found in the library databases.

With a year of remote learning behind us, we have discovered that lessons taught via synchronous Zoom sessions generally take longer than the same types of activities taught in person. Partnering with teaching faculty to determine student learning outcomes for the online session is especially imperative during this time. Many of us completely reworked our classroom activities to best meet student needs. We have created fully online, asynchronous modules, recorded video lectures and updated our synchronous instruction for Zoom format. In addition, many librarians offer optional drop-in Zoom sessions for specific courses to help students with in-depth research questions. The Zoom environment is challenging for all of us, but we have been encouraged by the overall positive energy in the classes we support. Helping students collaborate in breakout rooms and then come back to the full class eager to share their learning is extremely rewarding.

Remote Teaching in Archives & Special Collections

Claire DuLaney

Archive and Special Collections



conversation immensely because I could refer to their comments as opposed to trying to remember which student had nodded or given a verbal response.

Whatever future in-person sessions look like, I will be incorporating lessons learned from remote teaching. Flexibility is key, don't try to cram too much into a 50-minute session, and I will 100% be using instant feedback forms in my classes.

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