

GUIDING STUDENTS TOWARD TRUSTWORTHY DIGITAL CONTENT

Gale eBooks on GVRL: Learn how access to a reliable research platform is changing the way students search for information.

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Jill Shoemaker
Librarian, Lasell College
Newton, MA

BACKGROUND

Lasell College, located in Newton, Massachusetts, has nearly 1,700 undergraduates enrolled in more than 50 academic programs. These students have come to expect quick search results; however, for more important research, relevancy and accuracy outweigh speed.

Jill Shoemaker, a librarian at Lasell College, offers information literacy sessions where she emphasizes the benefits of a fully vetted digital collection. Lasell instructors commonly encourage students to attend her sessions, because students will be shown the value of a richer learning experience when it is derived from a trusted source.

ABOUT THE CHALLENGE

COMPETING AGAINST SEARCH ENGINES

Shoemaker’s main challenge was to ensure that honors students have access to and use digital research materials that meet academic standards. Second, she had to convince students who constantly compare digital learning tools to Google and the open web to use trusted reference sources.

“We are always competing with Google,” Shoemaker said. Shoemaker doesn’t understate the necessity of an easy-to-use platform. Students’ perceptions have undoubtedly been shaped by popular search engines like Google.

To succeed, Shoemaker knew she would need not only a digital reference collection with unmatched depth and breadth, but also one that would be intuitive and responsive to today’s student demands.

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■ BRIDGING THE GAP

PROVIDING AN AUTHORITATIVE PLATFORM

Lasell students now enjoy access to GVRL, Gale's eBook platform, featuring academic titles that support study within leading disciplines. "It's a one-stop shop," Shoemaker said in reference to a librarian's ability to quickly find, easily order, and provide all of the resources students might need for a particular research project. "It's very easy to use and provides the students exactly what they're looking for." Shoemaker recently helped students on a research project that required them to evaluate movies based on historical events. Instead of tediously searching and vetting individual sources, Shoemaker used GVRL's LibGuide feature to pull an entire list of historical books relevant to the class project. "I am quite strict with my requirements," Shoemaker said. "My students really like GVRL and did extremely well when using it."

GVRL's intuitive, mobile-responsive design provides access from a tablet or mobile device. At the same time, GVRL offers integration with popular collaboration tools, such as G Suite for Education and Microsoft Office 365. "The fact that they can email articles to themselves is great," Shoemaker said of GVRL's tailored learning experience.

■ THE RESULT

MULTI-PUBLISHER CONNECTIONS MAKE GVRL A CORNERSTONE OF THE CAMPUS LIBRARY

With more than 13,000 (and counting!) academic eBooks available on GVRL, libraries can easily grow their customized collections of highly vetted sources that students may use with confidence. "It's fantastic that Gale is a cross-publisher," Shoemaker said. "You can buy everything from Gale and the students just love it."

When GVRL becomes the default search engine for students working on research projects, academic performance improves and librarians illustrate how they can outperform the online search giants students have grown up with. "Lasell College is proof," says Shoemaker. "I would definitely recommend GVRL," she said. "The eBooks are excellent, the professors really like it, and it's wonderful for the students—who love it!"

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PRODUCT



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