

Case Study

Undergraduate students use *Web* of Science to discover literature and prepare for grad schoool

Introducing research tools to help science undergraduates in finding journals and learning about the practices around peer-reviewed literature

Berry College

Founded in 1902, Berry College is a private liberalarts 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, in particular, are introduced to the use of peer reviewed papers early in their undergraduate programs. One third of Berry students are pursuing a major in the School of Mathematics & Natural Sciences.





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.

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 Mathematics & Natural Sciences, Berry College

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.

Imperative to expose 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.



Berry College Highlights

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.

- Established: 1902
- Students: 2,000
- Location: Georgia, USA
- Featured product: Web of Science
- 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 bibliographic tool.

BoxWeb of Science has enhanced
discoverability of our best resourcesfor student research activity in the sciences.

Sherre Harrington

Solution

Berry College provides *Web of Science Science Citation Index Expanded* to undergraduates at the School of Mathematics & Natural Sciences.

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.

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

Value delivered

Provides the best tools for discovery and encourages usage of full-text resources

- Undergraduates and faculty at Berry use *Web* of *Science* to find the research relevant to them. They can have confidence that they are seeing the most impactful research in their field.
- With a database of over 1 billion cited references, *Web of Science* enables researchers to easily find research related to interdisciplinary topics.
- It also encourages usage of full-text resources with a comprehensive electronic resource and backfiles that makes journal content more discoverable.

Equips students for graduate work with practical tools and literacy in peer-reviewed research

- Students are better prepared for graduate work by using *Web of Science*, one of the essential tools for research.
- As a result, they can be more productive in finding the most impactful articles and journals in their fields, and learning about the practices around peer-reviewed literature.

Who we are

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