



Six Ways to Create a Better Library Website

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Design for Usability

Today's users are experts with mobile devices and made-to-order "custom" experiences. Meeting their user experience expectations doesn't have to be a challenge.



1

Keep the Route Simple

Minimize the navigation options on each page and keep them near the top. The most common type of navigation menu is the horizontal navigation bar. It lists the major pages side-by-side. The clearest option for websites is object-based navigation. Place content within obvious (typically noun-only) categories.



2

Be on the Move

A responsive website is one step toward meeting user needs. Make sure your library website not only adjusts to different screen sizes, but also optimizes certain site elements for mobile devices, tablets or desktops.



3

Optimize the Search Experience

Not only should your library website have a single search bar front and center for users to enter their keywords, but search results should be kept in the same interface. This creates a more consistent research experience.



4

Organize Your Offerings

Each user takes a different path to finding information, and the same idea should apply to your library's database offerings. Consider organizing databases by customizable categories, providing quick filters or sorting capabilities so each user can find the right database for their research.



5

Don't Just Be a Pretty Face

Make sure your library website reflects your institution's brand. Choose a theme and then customize. You should be able to change the look and feel of the website in seconds without having to adjust your content.



6

Ask the Users

Finally, ask your end-users to test out your site and document their feedback. Execute changes based on their responses. Repeat as necessary!

EBSCO Stacks

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created for libraries by a librarian

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