

4 Steps to Improving Remote Learning

How Your Library Website
Can Become a Remote Learning Rockstar



The uncertainty of transforming from in-person to more of a focus of online has caused many schools and academic institutions to realize that remote access is a weak point in their offering. And rightfully so, with most higher-ed students **still taking** the traditional approach of an “in-person” degree path.

But despite shifts to online due to COVID-19, over the years, Academia has begun to see an **increase** in online education. This could be attributed to many facts, one could be the **rise** in the cost of undergraduate education, leaving many undergrads to seek cost-saving measures thus creating a hybrid undergraduate experience of online and on campus. Another consideration is the age diversification of undergraduates, which shows that **many seeking a degree** are over the age of 25.

Regardless of the reasons, the trends or the current world impact, creating a strong website presence and providing optimal remote access allows your library to match student expectations, increase usage of resources and proves your value as a library and a leader.

So, let's look at **4 ways** to improve your library website for remote learning.

1. Start with the Fundamentals

According to an EBSCO survey on undergraduates' research workflow, **40 percent** of students rate their library websites as moderate to very challenging and **15 percent** never use them. These complications are compounded even further if a student is accessing your library website remotely. So, what does your library website need?



A clear plan with goals and areas of improvement



Organized **information architecture** to create a navigable experience



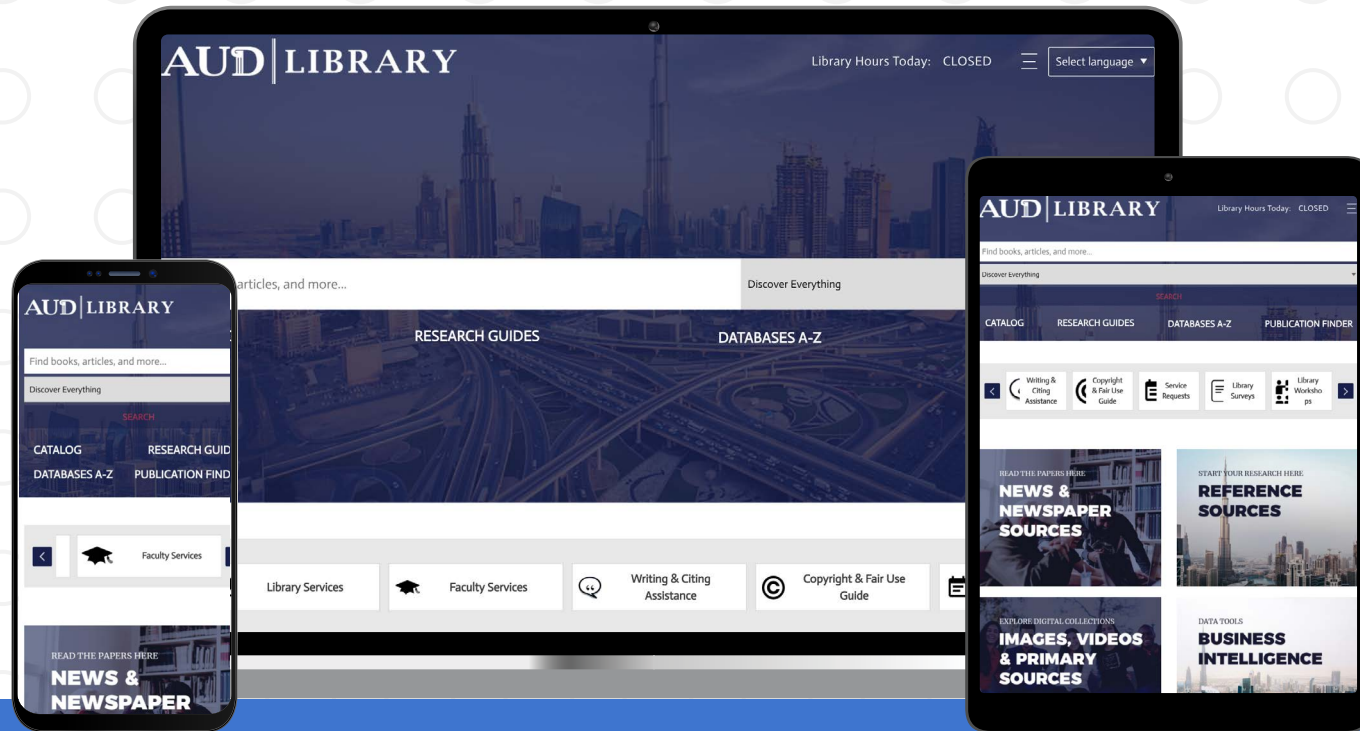
Appealing **visual design** with limited font choices, appropriate branding and accessibility considerations



Clear and concise language. Words that are action-oriented, short and direct



Most importantly your library website needs to be **sustainable**. This means that it can work no matter the device, the browser or if any major releases occur with third party platforms.



The Stacks content management system avoids the need for expensive customized custom development by incorporating tools that can be configured and populated by libraries themselves to produce a customized website.

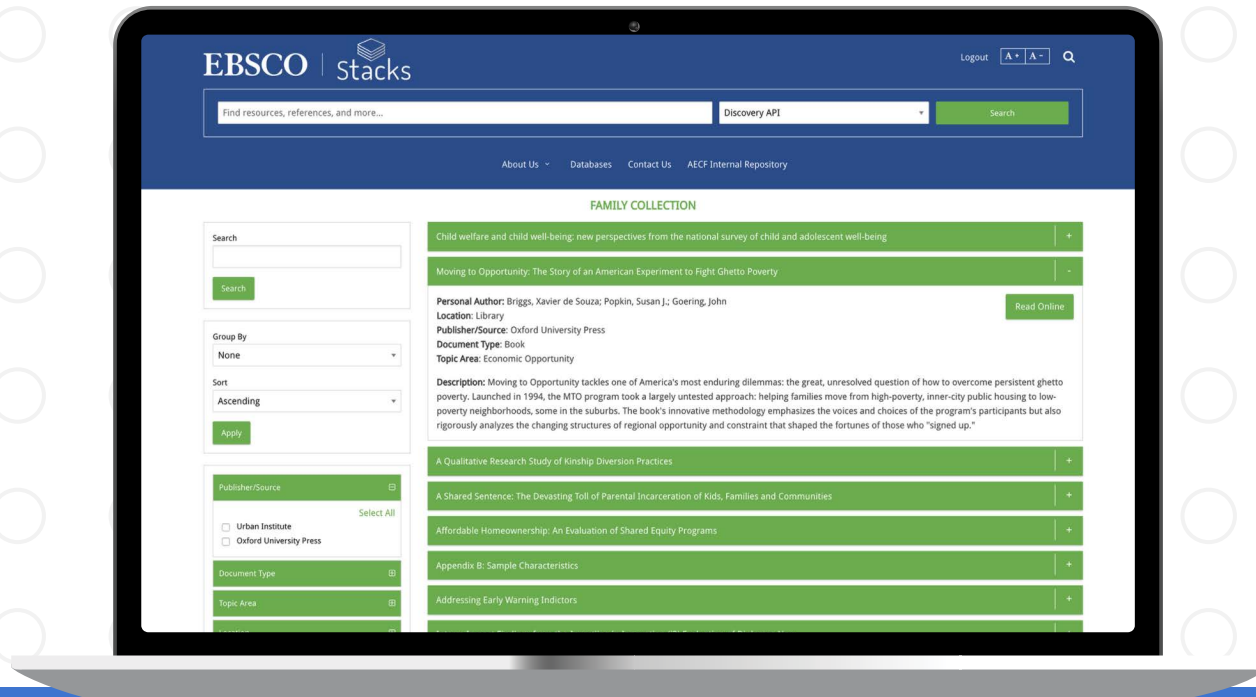
Marshall Breeding,
Founder, Editor at Library Technology Guides,
Smart Libraries Newsletter

2. Integrate Authentication / Single Sign-On (SSO)

Having a library website in which the library staff can easily configure single sign-on via the website's admin dashboard reduces a significant amount of overhead, saves time and avoids unplanned costs. In addition, your library website platform should allow you to choose how you want to configure your SSO.

The Stacks Platform supports six configuration options for **user authentication**.

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| ① IP Whitelist | ④ ILS or IDP |
| ② Internal | ⑤ SSO via Secure Cloud |
| ③ SIP2 | ⑥ SSO with ILS Functionality |



3. Make the Most of Your Collections

Exposing users to your collections leads to a greater accumulation of knowledge and increased usage. From documents like news articles, papers and proceedings to images and media, make sure your library website has the capability to store, search and share special collections.

Take this seamless concept to the next level by including your collections alongside results from your discovery system(s), catalog(s), website, and more.



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Libraries are seeing the need to integrate their catalogs, open resources and remote learning resources. They are using Stacks Collections to catalog items they might not normally catalog. Stacks offers base level metadata that allows cataloging to be turned around quickly. As libraries have a growing need to aggregate new information quickly (as it becomes available), Stacks can help tie concepts together and publish these updates in real-time.

Kristin Delwo,
Founder of Stacks

4. Move to Mobile

Keeping a mobile-first approach to accessibility, language and design within your website will improve remote learning. But considering a separate mobile strategy via an added mobile app allows for continuity and a better connection with the library no matter what step a user is in the research process.



Can Your Library Users Use Mobile Right Now To:

- ① Browse the library's catalog?
- ② Scan a book barcode to check availability within your library and place a hold?
- ③ View and renew account items?
- ④ Access databases?

Stacks is a web-based content management system (CMS) that provides everything you need to create and manage your digital research experience. Feel confident with top-notch features and technology, including *EBSCO Discovery Service™* integration.



Unified discovery

Bring your catalog together with databases and other e-resources into one search box. Users can search website content like news and events along with physical and digital collections.



A seamless, integrated experience

Manage events, room bookings, locations, users, content creation and more through a single interface. And with OpenAthens single sign-on integration, users only need to log in once to access all your resources.



Configurable and responsive themes

Easily customize your library website with ready-to-use themes, drag-and-drop page layouts and other options. All themes are responsive, meaning they will look great on all devices.



Plug-and-play integrations

All Stacks integrations are plug-and-play, meaning there are no risks or costs associated with custom development. Pull together services quickly.

[Learn More](#)