SIX WAYS TO CREATE A BETTER ACADEMIC LIBRARY WEBSITE
Today’s students are mavens with mobile devices and made-to-order “custom” experiences. Meeting their user experience expectations doesn’t have to be a challenge.
1. BE ON THE MOVE

A responsive website is the first step to meeting students’ needs. Make sure that your library website not only adjusts to different screen sizes, but also that certain site elements are optimized for mobile, table or desktop.
2. OPTIMIZE THE SEARCH EXPERIENCE

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

Each student 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, provide quick filters or sorting capabilities so each student can find the right database for their research.
4. GUIDE THEIR RESEARCH

Students (like all of us) appreciate when the guesswork is taken out of their search experience. Rich research guides complete with multimedia support is the cherry on top of the research sundae.
5. GET SOCIAL

Library hours, your Twitter account, worthwhile events. These are what will keep students connected to your library long after research for a paper or project is due. Have your website display these areas of your library loud and clear.
6. TAKE PART IN SCHOOL PRIDE

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