

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.

“My students really liked GVRL and did extremely well when using it. It’s very easy to use and provides the students exactly what they’re looking for.”



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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