

# Developing a Library Open Access Portal That Bypasses the Need for Authentication

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## Synopsis

Texas A&M University was established as Texas' only land grant university through the First Morrill Act (1862), which sought to provide a broad segment of the population with a practical education that had direct relevance to their daily lives. The Sterling C. Evans Library at Texas A&M is building upon this tradition to bring all of Texas A&M's scholarly work to bear on many of society's greatest challenges by promoting open access.

We have designed a portal that bypasses the need for authentication and allows a user to search through a collection of open access materials. We are working with *Ex Libris*, the vendor from which we license our Primo discovery layer, and installed a separate instance of Primo aimed at aggregating open access materials and making them accessible to the public.

## Keywords

open access; portal; search.

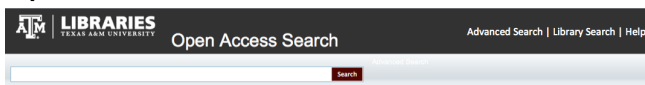
## Supporting K12 STEM Education Reform



We are collaborating with Roscoe Collegiate.

- Member of the Texas High Performance Schools Consortium
- Roscoe Collegiate is developing a multiple measure accountability system, including student-developed research presentations and evidence-based electronic portfolios.
- Grades 3-12 STEM research program with capstone experience (grade 12) focusing on agriculture
- Program seeks student success in college and workforce readiness.

## Open Access Search Portal



### What are Open Access Library Resources?

Online access to the holdings of most University Libraries are restricted to enrolled students and faculty because of our licensing agreements with commercial publishers.

There is a growing movement, called open access (OA), where scholarly publications are digital, online, free-of-charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions. This movement allows the Texas A&M Libraries to provide everyone, including K12 students, former students of Texas A&M, and the citizens of Texas, with access to quality publications, reports, and books.



### Open Access Collections

This search portal is drawing from a number of open access collections, including those listed below. If you are a TAMU student or faculty member, please use [the library's main search engine](#), that searches our entire collection.

- BioMed Central
- arXiv
- DataCite
- Directory of Open Access Journals
- HathiTrust
- Project Gutenberg
- Public Library of Science (PLOS)
- Research Papers in Economics (RePEc)
- Institutional Repositories at Harvard, Iowa State, University of California system, and many others.

### Need Help or More Information?

Learn more about searching: [Click here](#)

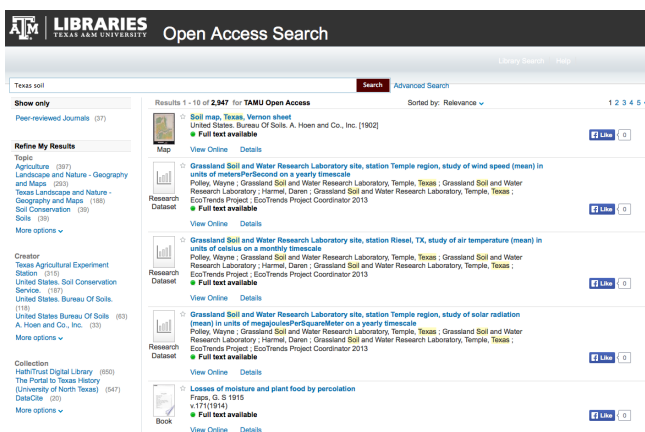
Ask an Internet Public Library (IPL2) librarian: [Click here](#). More [information on the service](#).

For teachers: [Tutorial on teaching information literacy](#).



<http://alturl.com/ha62d>

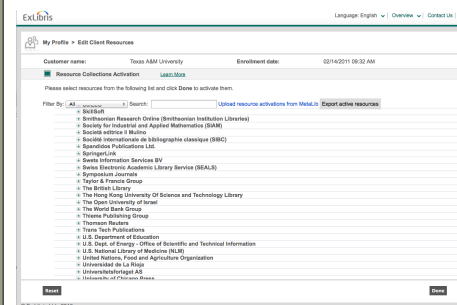
## Example of Search Results



<http://alturl.com/kzq7a>

## Technical Design

This dedicated Portal draw materials identified as open access from the Primo Central Index, a "meta-aggregation of hundreds of millions of scholarly e-resources of global and regional importance," including "journal articles, e-books, reviews, legal documents and more."



Screen shot of Primo window to edit client resources

## Questions Remain

We seek to be a trusted, useful source of scholarly resources:

- What OA materials do we want to make accessible?  
A: Full-text read access, items that do not require a subscription for search & delivery.
- What is the quality of collections harvested by Primo?  
A: Does *Ex Libris* consider quality? We will assess resource quality.
- Are the collections identified by *Ex Libris* actually OA?  
A: Will have to do some testing. HathiTrust as example.
- We will assess usability for teachers and students.

