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.

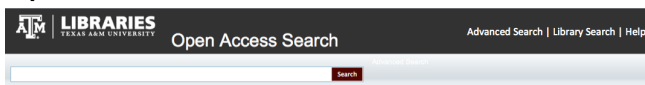**Keywords**
open access; portal; search.

Supporting K12 STEM Education Reform

ALL STUDENTS COLLEGE READY. CAREER READY. LIFE READY.

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

http://alturl.com/ha62d

Example of Search Results

http://alturl.com/kzq7a
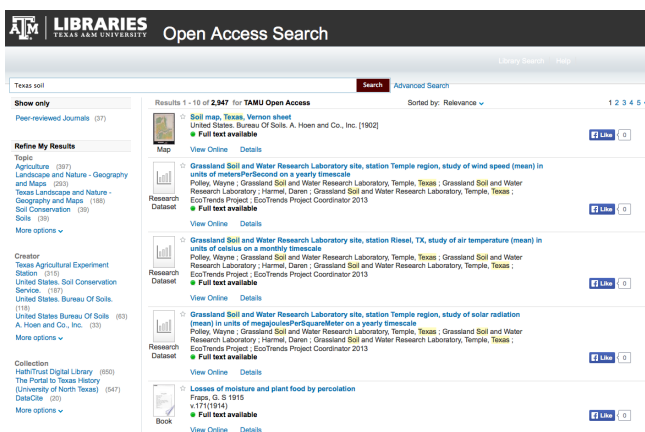
Technical Design

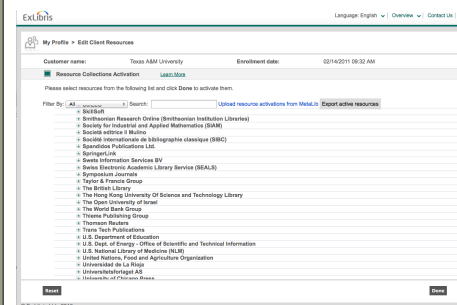This dedicated Portal draw materials identified as open access from the Primo Central Index, a "meta-aggregation of hundreds of millions of scholarly e-resources of global and regional importance," including "journal articles, e-books, reviews, legal documents and more."

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.

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