Leveraging the "Google mentality": 1Search and the new (inter)face of library discovery

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1Search is a “discovery tool” that sits on top of a diverse range of Van Wylen Library’s resources, providing a unified search experience for a large amount of library content. From a single search box, users are able to explore print and electronic books, videos, many full-text articles and databases, Digital Commons, CONTENTdm, as well as other open access repositories, like HathiTrust.

**Implications for library and “information literacy” instruction**

“Discovery tools are in sync with the way many undergraduates look for information because they offer a more streamlined experience in contrast with previous methods of research that required first knowing which database to use, then searching each one differently according to its specifications.”†

“…discovery can be an excellent pedagogical tool. Because it relieves so many searches of the burden of that first question—which database should I search?—we can use our time with students to construct, together, answers to questions we all find more compelling.”*

- provides novice researchers with a more direct (and less intimidating) gateway to a wide range of academic library resources
- shifts intro-level instructional emphasis away from the functionality of individual catalogues and databases, and towards the teaching of more broadly applicable search concepts and critical thinking skills
- serves as an intermediary step to more advanced database searching that is required in specific disciplines

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