LibGuides: Online Subject and Research Guides
by Ruth Baker, Learning Commons Librarian

Henderson Library’s Liaisons began building a set of new research and subject guides in the fall of 2012. These “LibGuides” are not static pages of information but are interactive web pages that provide access to appropriate books (linked to the library’s catalog), article databases, videos, web sites, and RSS feeds for a subject or research topic. They also feature online tutorials, instructional videos, search “widgets” and other resources that can be used directly within the guide. Forms can be embedded to gather student feedback or submit assignments, or for collaboration or reflection. The pages are easy to create and maintain and can be linked to Folio courses.

We made a conscious decision to carefully build a set of guides on selected topics and on a scale that could be maintained over time. As of this writing, there are 114 guides in our local system. We began by building subject-focused guides for each of our Liaison Areas to replace our earlier system of subject guides.

Research Guides, also, can be structured as tutorials, such as the Mechanical Engineering guide above, to walk students through the research process or suggest strategies for particular disciplines or subjects.

We are now expanding our guides to include course and assignment guides which, in collaboration with discipline faculty, can be very effective in flipped (or “reverse”) classroom situations.
LibGuides can serve other functions, too, such as providing an easy-to-maintain platform for online exhibits or events. For example, the Zach S. Henderson Library now has guides for recent projects and events such as Banned Books Week, America's Music, and Bridging Cultures: Muslim Journeys.

To access the guides, click on "Research Guides" on the “Get Research Help” tab on the Library's home page (http://library.georgiasouthern.edu) or go to: http://georgiasouthern.libguides.com

Our Liaisons are working hard to create additional guides and look forward to your comments and suggestions. If you would like to use LibGuides in your courses or collaborate on a guide for your course or assignments, contact your Subject Liaison today! (http://library.georgiasouthern.edu/services/library-liaisons/)

Henderson Library Services: Inter-Library Loan, GIL-Express, and Document Delivery

by Cynthia Frost, Inter-Library Loan Librarian

If Henderson Library doesn’t own what you need…

The Library can usually get access to research and teaching materials you need even if the item isn’t owned by the Library – be it an article, book chapter, music score, microfilm, DVD or book.

The easiest way for faculty to obtain materials not owned by the Library is to register for an ILLiad account and then request whatever it is you need that isn't already accessible electronically via the Library homepage.

http://library.georgiasouthern.edu/services/interlibrary-loan/

Use the above link to find out more about ILLiad services as well as GIL Express and Document Delivery. For instance, faculty qualify for Document Delivery service – in addition to getting materials for you from other libraries, if we own the book, we will check it out and mail it to your office. If you need just a chapter or article from a journal we own in hardcopy, we will scan and deliver it to you electronically via your ILLiad account.

GIL Express is an additional service for borrowing books owned by other University System of Georgia libraries. The processing time is quicker than ILL and you can keep the book longer. This service is very popular with students.

If you would like assistance using ILLiad or GIL Express, call the Information Desk at 912-478-5645 or click on “live Chat” http://library.georgiasouthern.edu/ask/
Searching for Information Resources Using Discover
by Rebecca Ziegler, Information Services Librarian and Bede Mitchell, Dean

Henderson Library has been offering a tool called DISCOVER that provides a Google-like experience for finding important scholarly information that is not freely available on the Web. Using the DISCOVER search box on the Library’s home page enables you to simultaneously search all formats (books, articles, media & more) in our online catalog and most of our electronic databases. DISCOVER differs from Google in that it searches only library resources & scholarly web sites. The DISCOVER default search is for all formats and all relevant items in our catalog and databases, but you may choose to conduct a limited search, e.g., the Library catalog only, or only resources available at other USG libraries), or full-text scholarly articles only, as well as other limits.

DISCOVER is easy for novice users to begin with a broad search and then narrow it by facets. All searches may be narrowed by facets or limiters on left side of screen after initial results. Facets or limiters include date, location, format, and source or database. All searches are keyword searches regardless of the field searched. The default search is “all words.” Radio buttons below the search box are useful to designate the initial search as keyword anywhere, title (keyword) or author (keyword). Quotation marks are very helpful in limiting results, especially when combined with the radio buttons. Boolean operators may be used. The full text of resources can be searched but must be selected as an option. The number hits per specific databases are included in the facets, providing an excellent lead into more specialized resources if needed.

Due to its comprehensive searching, DISCOVER can yield an amazing, even overwhelming number of results. Thus it is important to understand how it works and when a more limited approach to a search may be best, such as using a single, discipline-specific database. However, experience has shown students have little understanding of the concept of databases and do a poor job of selecting the database or databases that are most appropriate to their project. Therefore, Library faculty who serve as liaisons to the academic departments encourage you to invite your liaisons to demonstrate to your students the resources and research techniques best suited to successfully completing class assignments. We will be happy to visit your department and provide a demonstration, provide instruction for you class, or provide a one-on-one session for you. We can also provide customized subject DISCOVER links for your area. Contact your library liaison to see if a customized subject link has already been created, or ask for one today!