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As another school year kicks off, we would like to welcome back returning students and extend a warm greeting to those who are new to the University of Alabama. As a distance learner, you are part of an important and growing off-campus community who know that opportunities for continuing education and learning are no longer restricted by geography or time.

The same goes for library services to UA distance learners. The University of Alabama Libraries strive to provide off-campus users enrolled in degree-seeking distance programs the same types of library services afforded to traditional on-campus students. That means that distance students have access to

the libraries collections in both physical and electronic formats. In addition, UA distance learners can take advantage of reference services, research consultations, and online library instruction workshops designed to give beginning and advanced users a leg-up on using the libraries' resources to the utmost advantage.

To learn more about library service for distance users, visit our web page at <http://www.lib.ua.edu/distanced/>.



Are You On MySpace or Facebook?

We are too! The Libraries want to make it as easy as possible for you to get timely assistance when and where you need it most. Add the Distance Learning Librarian to your friends list!

Facebook: Search for mallen@bama.ua.edu

MySpace:

<http://www.myspace.com/bamalibrarian>



Accessing Resources Remotely

One of the many advantages that technology has afforded us is the ability to obtain information almost any time from almost any place. The same holds true for many of the Libraries' online resources. The Libraries offer students a rich diversity of licensed copyrighted resources containing publications not available freely on the World Wide Web. However, many

students find it frustrating when they cannot access the online materials they need to complete their research or course work. Unfortunately, there can be several unrelated reasons why students encounter problems. Here is a list of the most common access road blocks:

1. Trying to access items from your online course space.
2. Trying to access materials from

work or from another school or library.

3. Incorrectly entering your MyBama user name and password.
4. Accessing links to articles that aren't actually available online.
5. Not currently registered as a UA student or faculty member.

If you think you're experiencing one or more of these problems, please contact the distance learning librarian: mallen@ua.edu

ExtremeSearch

The Libraries are excited to offer a new information search tool known as ExtremeSearch. This tool, often referred to as a 'federated search engine' allows users to search multiple library databases simultaneously using a single search interface.

Designed for the novice or interdisciplinary researcher, ExtremeSearch can provide users with a general overview of the articles available on their topic without spending hours selecting and searching separate databases.

Users will find the ExtremeSearch quick search feature located in the upper right corner of each of the various libraries' home pages. To conduct a simple search, just enter your topic in the box provided and click the "Search" button. Once you obtain your results list, it is often possible to link to the full-text of an article by clicking the "view" or "article linker" buttons.

For those who require advanced search capabilities, ExtremeSearch's advanced search screen allows users to combine search terms, set

date limits, and choose one or more subject categories to query.

We encourage you to try the new search resource and provide us with your feedback! You can find ExtremeSearch by visiting the Libraries' homepage located at www.lib.ua.edu.



"We would welcome the opportunity to assist faculty members in

incorporating online resources into your course site, providing your students with a comprehensive encapsulated online learning experience!"

Distance Services for Faculty

The University Libraries provide instructional services designed especially to assist University of Alabama faculty teaching off-campus courses.

We can work closely with you to design customized web pages and online interactive tutorials tailored to your assignment.

In addition, we are familiar with the workings of course management software applications such as eLearning and WebCT. We would welcome the opportunity to assist faculty members in incorporating online resources into your course site, providing your students with a comprehensive encapsulated online learning experience!

To find out more about

incorporating the library and online resources into your elearning or WebCT course shell, contact the Distance Learning Librarian via phone at 205-348-8432 or email mallen@ua.edu.

Fall Online Research Workshops

Join us for a brief webinar on how to efficiently conduct research and use the Libraries' online resources...all from the comfort of your own home! Participants in the introductory workshop will learn how to access the Libraries' online resources (databases and electronic journals), assess a research topic, formulate efficient online research strategies, and obtain full-text

materials.

Fall workshops will be held on the following days/times:

Sunday, Sept. 23, 3:00 pm

Tuesday, Sept. 25, 7:00 pm

Thursday, Sept. 27, 3:00 pm

Please note: All times reflect Central Standard Time.

To sign up for one of these workshops, please contact Maryellen Allen (mallen@ua.edu) or call 205-348-8432.



Universal Borrowing Offers Options

Universal borrowing is a service offered by several Alabama academic libraries. Users from any participating library can borrow books from any of the other participating libraries, either on-site using a photo ID, or by requesting the items through the libraries' online catalog.

This service, referred to as ALLIES stands for Alabama Libraries Exchange Service. The current members of ALLIES are:

- Auburn University

- Auburn University at Montgomery
- Jacksonville State University
- University of Alabama
- University of Alabama Birmingham (Stern Library)

or email mallen@ua.edu.



**Alabama
Libraries
Exchange
Service**

If you cannot make it to campus to get the books you need and live close to one of the other participating institutions, you may check out materials at the library that is most convenient for you.

For more information on universal borrowing, contact the Distance Learning Librarian at 205-348-8432

Distance users can have both UA Libraries print and ILL materials mailed to them directly.

Materials Delivery Using Interlibrary Loan

If you are a student registered with the University of Alabama's College of Continuing Studies or if you are a registered University of Alabama graduate student outside Tuscaloosa, the library will check out books to you and mail them through the postal service.

Many off-campus users are reluctant to make use of interlibrary-loan (ILL) services

because they believe they'll need to drive to campus to pick up materials. Not so! Distance users can have both UA Libraries print and ILL materials mailed to them directly.

When requesting materials through interlibrary loan, simply make sure you set your status to "Distance Ed".

If you have additional questions about obtaining print materials or using the interlibrary loan service, please contact the Distance Learning librarian at 205-348-8432 or email mallen@ua.edu.

In addition, you may view our brief online tutorial located at:

http://www.lib.ua.edu/tutorials/ill/ILL_Tutorial.htm

Research Assistance

The Libraries want to assure all off-campus users that doing research at a distance doesn't have to be an insurmountable challenge. Research help is available from a variety of online locations. Contact the Distance Learning Librarian via phone at 205-348-8432 or email mallen@bama.ua.edu. During nights and weekends, you can contact the Gorgas Information Services desk at 205-348-6047 or use the [Ask-A-Librarian](#) service

located under the "Services" column on the Libraries homepage: <http://www.lib.ua.edu/>

Additional Assistance

Do you need more help than a short phone call or online chat can provide? Are you conducting in-depth research? You may wish to schedule a one-on-one session with the distance learning librarian for more specialized

assistance. Call Maryellen Allen at 205-348-8432 or email mallen@ua.edu to make arrangements. We can accommodate you with a variety of technologies including phone, live chat or instant messenger.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA
LIBRARIES

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Mission Statement

In support of the UA Libraries mission to strive for excellence in advancing the University's teaching, research, and outreach programs, the University of Alabama Libraries provide its distance learning students with resources and services equivalent to those provided to on-campus users. Services extended to UA affiliated distance populations include such things as access to and use of both on-line and print-based information sources, library instruction, reference services, and limited technology assistance.

Eligibility for Service

All students, faculty and staff currently enrolled in a degree-granting distance program offered by The University of Alabama are eligible for distance learning library services

Keep In Touch!

Since the libraries are always changing, we encourage our distance users to keep in touch with us. Here are some of the ways we can stay in contact:

Phone

Reference & Information Services:

205-348-6047

Distance Learning Librarian

Maryellen Allen

205-348-8432

Email

Ask-A-Librarian

<http://www.lib.ua.edu/forms/refchatquest.htm>

Distance Learning Librarian

mallen@ua.edu

Chat (Ask-A-Librarian)

<http://www.lib.ua.edu/forms/refchat.htm>

Instant Messenger

Email the name of your IM client and your handle to mallen@ua.edu

MySpace

<http://www.myspace.com/bamalibrarian>

Facebook

Search for mallen@bama.ua.edu

View profile and then click "Add to friends"

At A Distance Blog

<http://distancelibraryservices.blogspot.com/>

Blog RSS Feed

<http://distancelibraryservices.blogspot.com/atom.xml>

UA Libraries Homepage

<http://www.lib.ua.edu/>

