In May 2016, the librarians conducted college wide focus groups to assess student’s perception of a new database searching platform “Search All’. In total 3 focus groups convened one from each of the campuses. The library faculty collected quantitative demographic data in addition to the quantitative data. This report contains the focus group responses only. The focus group asked the following questions:

1. What are some advantages to using Search All for college research?
2. What are some disadvantages to using Search All for college research?
3. Can you suggest any ways to make it easier to use?
4. Think of a topic you had to research recently. How does Search All compare with that process?

The complete listing of comments and transcription is attached in Appendix A, a summary of the highlights are presented here.

Q1. Overall, student comments were positive when asked about the advantages of using “Search All”. When asked to elaborate on the ease of use and broadened topics students continued to have positive and believed that other platforms were limited in the articles that were presented. The visibility of “Search All” needs to be more prominent so that students can access it easily.

Q2. The disadvantages of using “Search All” the date of publication was not very clear, the amount of results are numerous and can make it difficult to find the right article, and students felt they had to cull through the results to find what they were looking for.

Q3. Students felt “Search All “should be a default box, the article result dates should be chronological.

Q4. Most students felt “Search All” was a good tool, but felt most students do not know about it. Suggestions from the students included faculty putting it on the syllabus, making it a topic for discussion at new student orientation.
What some of the advantages to using the “search all” for college research?

- I think it broadens how much information that you can find because you may stumble across a piece of text that you would not have ordinarily used or been aware of.
- I think that is something that is mostly required by some professors and it helps to give you an understanding, like it shows/knows everything if you are looking for something specific.
- I wanted to share that when I first had to look for peer review articles I found it very helpful and I have the confidence in knowing it was scholarly and it was peer review specifically.
- It’s kind of like Google scholar, when professors explain databases on college websites where there are a lot of databases- in google scholar you put in your thing and it comes up with a bunch of things so it’s just like google scholar. It’s like all in one places and not just a bunch of databases which makes students more wanting to use it.
- I think it depends on what you are searching because sometimes when I am searching on “search all” it was not as specific as google scholar.
- It was very easier, easier than I thought it would be
- It gives you a lot of options that you can look through for your research so there is a lot to look for.
- Search all is much easier to go straight to “search all”, so maybe make it one easy click

Can you elaborate on that?

- I was looking up something about Western Civilization and it wasn’t as specific, like with the topic, so I had to go to Google Scholar and I found something.
- I was wondering-maybe I needed to be more specific in the “search all”, maybe when you went to Google Scholar and when you went to search for Western Civilization maybe you played more with the language more and you knew exactly what you were looking for.
- Yes, it was very specific
- I never had a professor tell me to use “search all”, they usually just recommended the “J Store” database so today was the first day that I used “search all” and I found that there was a broader search with more articles that helped me and with the “J Store” it is very limited so with “search all” it had many more articles.
- I found “search all” a lot easier because you can go right on the homepage and go to “search all” and it brings up all the articles and then from there you can go and eliminate by date or by peer review or whatever you want as opposed to going to articles and data bases and going on from there.
- It gives you more than a broad topic like if you put in Facebook it gave you more topics to look at and broke it down for you.
• It is much easier to weed out articles that have nothing to do with your topic because you can refine your search a lot easier than on google or on anything else.
• It was more straightforward that other databases, you just put it in search and you find what you need and it was much faster.
• It is more specific for what you are looking for and like she said it’s not like you have to look at more than you need because your specific topic comes up.

A few people have mentioned using “broaden” which means you get a broader search, so with “more” in your search, how does it feel to get more? More but not necessarily specific?

• I think it is very helpful to get more because when I am searching my topic and doing my research paper for my English semester, using the “search all” it gave me a little bit more articles than the “J Store” which just gave me a few articles and I only got bits and pieces as compared to the “search all” which gave me a little more information and a lot of new words for my search.
• “Search all” actually has the potential to actually improve your project because you wouldn’t necessarily go off topic but you can add to it even more. I was first exposed to this in college seminar which I went to last semester and Professor Atkins was very helpful in showing us how simple this was to use and the benefits of it for research.

A couple of you have mentioned “J Store”, how many of you have used other individual databases that the library has? Ok, so not too many. So most of you are not aware that we have many individual databases to search? No, ok.

• I feel like sometimes it depends on what your professor asks you to do because the first time I used this for research, the professor asked me to look up something and I looked for it several times and I wasn’t getting it so I was getting frustrated however when I went to “search all” and I put the same thing in which was “gender equality” a whole lot of different things came up and I was surprised as to why I could not get that before. So yes it does matter what you are searching for and what kind of data bases you are using.
• I think if you did not have to go through the Suffolk Community College website it would be more accessible to people because if you don’t come here how would you get this, it’s not that accessible. So if there was like a search all .com it would be used more that is why everyone goes to Google. So those who do not go to Suffolk Community College or take library class, would not know this.
Yes, unfortunately all these databases are behind a firewall because we have to pay for these databases, which is why we cannot have a searchall.com. It is only for use of Suffolk students because you are paying tuition for these databases.

Yes, but then if you don’t take one of these classes where they mention this, you would never know about it.

- The only way we know about these databases is thru our professors. Many times I have been here to learn about how to use the databases. They have very large ones and when we do a paper or a presentation it comes a lot from the professors because he or she can say that I want many sources however they also do say that they do not want Google and they don’t want books etc., they want videos and “go to” databases and that is very important
- Yes
- Getting back to when you were talking about broaden before, where the searches are broadened, the feature that I like after you are on “search all” is the “refine” results and I have never seen that on “J Store” or other databases. I searched up when they asked about free college tuition, it gave me options for higher education and other stuff which had to do with that and I thought that was very helpful.
- When you had us search for free college tuition I added euro- economics and it helped to specify specifically what I was looking for so yes, I think those two particular options to add secondary topics is definitely beneficial because other websites do not offer that specification.
- That is also what I was going to say with the broadening, I was not wording it correctly but it has the potential to improve your assignment of what you are looking for because when you have the “refine” your search and also I want to emphasis the confidence that is due to this school and that it is going to be accepted. I think it would be a really good idea if the professors put it on their syllabus so that the kids can know coming in or as early as possible so that they can use this for their assignments.
- I would also suggest that the professors place this on their syllabus if they know that they are going to be assigning papers, they can let students know they can make use of these services by saying “make use of the library data bases”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you came just to the library and you did not have one of these classes and you saw those boxes would you go to “search all” or would you fumble there eventually? So, if you did not have a class what would you try to end up doing?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If I did not have this class I would just go to Google Scholar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I use that too, I do not use the “search all” I just go right to Google Scholar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I did the same thing my first semester, (used google scholar) my professor told me to just go in and click on books, media or just articles so that is what I did. So if you are just coming in to school and the professor says where to go then you are just going to go</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
where he suggests. If my professor told me about “search all” I would of used that because it shows everything all at once so it is a little easier to go through.

- I am not sure if this is an option but I think this is on the first question that we had to answer, we had to find an academic journal article that was in the last two years. I am not sure if there was an option to filter results but I had to scroll down a little bit to see find one which was recently published and I am not sure if there was an option to filter it out under “date added” because you might want much more recent information depending on what you are writing about.

**What about some of the disadvantages or this searching tool?**

- When I was looking in “search all” for Face Book privacy and I am looking through all the boxes it sometimes does not give me the results that I am looking for. I was looking for” national security privacy” for example, I also put in other words in there but did not get very many results.
- Finding the date where something was published was kind of weird, it wasn’t very clear. I mean you could find it but it was kind of hidden a little bit.
- Sometimes it comes up with thousands of results so it makes it a little more difficult to find one that really fits what you are looking for so I guess that is why “refine” results can come in handy.
- I guess limit it to full text or books & media what you are looking for and then add more keywords in.
- I had a problem and it would take me to these crazy sites and not sure if it was just the key words, if I put in “Alzheimer’s disease in middle age woman in the United States” it took me to mentally retarded adults in the United States and it was not sure if it was right in the article so you really have to weed through and it is not always super easy to use. So you have to do a lot of weeding through and find the article that as pertinent to your topic.
- So maybe it should be more like the main topic, not just having the keywords so like if the main topic is Alzheimer’s disease- it should be that that’s the focus and then more refined would be something pertaining to … do you know what I am saying?

**The rule of thumb for data bases is that the more words that you put in the search the less you will get out of your search.**

- I am doing a research paper and a couple of weeks ago I was trying to find a topic that the professor gave me and it was so difficult to find something on it and finally I had to go to Google and try to add other stuff to my topic to come back to find something.
In terms of “search all” were there any disadvantages or things that you didn’t like about it or that you found difficult to use?

- There are very few articles where it has the full text in the PDF.

What do you mean? More html?

- Yes

Ok

- When I was doing my searches and I clicked on the link with the blue letters I would have to click around to get the article, sometimes it would give me just the sources and even though that is necessary sometimes but I think they should bring you right to the actual text. Like on google, you click on it and its right there.

If you click on the title of the article it will bring you up to an abstract but if you click on the text it will bring you right to the text in the article. So you think that if you click on the title, your article should come right up- that it should bring you right up to the text? I am not sure it that is something that we can control something like that so you are going to have to keep your eyes out for stuff like that.

- “Search all” is much easier because it is more refined than google who gives you a lot of sources but nothing really specific and anyone can put something on google so, “search all” is more safe. It’s much easier to find what you are looking for so the “search all” is more for college students because google does not have the proof and “search all” does. ?? Is much easier to find what you are looking for.

Any other things that you found to be more problematic about searching the database?

- Not that it is more problematic but that it is more beneficial the way that it is because it enables you to view more at a glance and then you can query in where you would like to.

- I have difficulty finding the date that it was written like in the “J Store” on the right hand side it will say the year and everything but for this “search all” you really have to look at it.

- I came across one that I was searching that had two dates and I did not know which one to take.

- Yes, I feel like it sort of buried in under some text, with some less significant information.

- I don’t think it needs to be too long, like maybe three lines instead of one
So you are saying, instead of having all this stuff packed in under one long line, try to break it out a little

- Yes, like in one particular line but make it separate, something like that.
- Sometimes when you are looking at the results you are just really looking at the blue letters and just the title, you are just scanning for that and not really paying attention to everything on the page. So even though you know that date might be right there you are just scanning with your eyes so you miss it. It needs a more notable placement.

Can anyone think of any other ways to make this easier to use? Automatically the most recent articles used in your search?

- I know you can set it up that way but it would be interesting if it was automatic since most professors do suggest that you use the most recent articles.
- The only thing that might sort of filter out the relevance, like they were saying is, so that might cause an issue maybe there could be some sort of a check box next to the text box while you are typing that says “show newest”.

Well filtering out the relevance might be a good thing depending on the subject matter, so many issues or topics of study are very dynamic and they want what is most recent so that is true.

- When we search up something and we just want the title not just like FACEBOOK in one of the articles because it is not even about FACEBOOK.
- Yes, that is the one things a lot of times when you just want one small thing and it will bring up everything and it’s like what does all this have to do with everything. It’s a huge problem.

I know that some of the things we have no control over because we all buy into this like all colleges but we are also trying to think of how we can teach people what things are most important if they end up coming in or to make it easier to look at if they don’t come in. It’s sort of intuitive- what to do. So in general is it pretty easy to use or figure out, if it wasn’t so easy at first glance, was it with just a little slowing down with a little thought, was it easy to figure out what to do?

- Yes, generally very easy.
- Yes, in general it was easy to do.
- Yes very user friendly.
- I guess I won’t be able to use it. (laughter)
- Well it kind of tells you what you are looking at and what you are searching for. I mean its right there. You just type it in and its right there and hit search.
- Was there a question about books?
Well “search all” is talking about books also, it’s not just articles and data bases.

- I think that “search all” should be the first thing that the cursor is on when you are on this, there cursor goes right to media

How does the rest of you feel about that?

- That sounds pretty accurate because I think you would be narrowing down your search if it was left on books and media. I think “search all” should be ahead of that.
- Yes, “search all” should be first.

So “search all “should be the default box?

- Yes, yes and yes :)
- Not that many people really look for books anymore (laughter)

Ok, so one more question. Think of a topic that you have had to recently research, how does “search all” compare with the process you went through for that research project. If you had known about “search all” when you did your last research project, would that have been helpful or did you use “search all before” or was the process that you went through before a better process?

- If I would have known about “search all” it would have been easier.
- I like the fact that you can refine your results and pick books, media and news, and the fact that it gives many options to pick.
- I feel that “search all “is very good but the thing is that most of the students don’t know how to use it if the professors do not tell them. If it was made for the students of SCCC it has to be shared that information at Student Orientation. They have to be told that if you want to find more information- this is where you need to go and encouraged to use it otherwise they will go to the old ways instead of the new ways.
- I did not know about it either so I think we should be told this in orientation.
- Last semester I had to write a paper on Greek literature and to analyze ??? And compare it to feminism and I think if I would have used search all it would have been much easier because when I was on “J Store” I only found one article and it was from 1950 something like it was really old and I had to ask if I could use it and everything. I did well but I really had to look and dig in and I even went to the Patchogue-Medford Library instead of coming here because they had a lot more things over there.
- I think for people to use this more it would have to be part of their routine like when you have a class that uses blackboard you are already on the website itself. It is pretty rare for me to go on the school website but if you are already there is more of a chance for you to use this so it has to be a part of your routine habit, like most people google. For this to be
more into your routine maybe go more on the school website for blackboard whatever so that way it is part of what you do so instead of going to google all the time you go to this all the time, at least while you are attending here. And that will give people more of a chance to use it maybe. If the professor says to use then you have to use it, then you are going to use it but it has to be something you use on a daily basis, or not really a daily basis but if is not part of your ritual, I think that that would help people use the “search all”.

- I am doing a research paper and I am doing a paper on Spider Man and it was so easy because there are hundreds of articles on Spider Man so before I wrote about it we did the “search all” and we did like a little bit of topics, like what can we do to make it more specific and so when we used the “search all” like I don’t think I used it in freshman seminar so thank God for English class.

- That is why I was saying that if all the professors put it on their syllabus because not all the professors are comfortable with technology and they all have their strengths and then weaknesses like everybody else so if they just had to put the information on the syllabus with the papers, like when they say APA format-access the library, suggest “search all” or maybe put a little picture of the library thing on the syllabus. It’s not a lot for them to do that, those that are….most do assign papers or at least one paper and then they wouldn’t have to go through a tutorial with us and the class and take up the time as well because not all professors are comfortable with that.

- I agree with what she says and I also think out of sight - out of mind so the professors are constantly mentioning this or make it part of their curriculum to mention this once in a while so that you are mindful of this but if you never mention it and you never see it you are never going to use it, at least I wouldn’t because out of sight out of mind for me.

<table>
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<th>I am just curious would you go to google or would you go to that?</th>
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<td>- Google</td>
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<tr>
<td>- I go to google now that I know about it</td>
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<tr>
<td>- I think I’d rather go to this (search all) I feel like it is more helpful, but if you go to google, because I did not know about google scholar until this semester when people were talking about it, so going to regular google you are just like ok, which web- site can I use and like what’s going to be incredible for my paper or if I come here it is going to be like I already know it’s going to be like peer review and academic journals and all that so like my teacher is going to accept them already so I feel like it is just easier to come here.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- If it is associated with my school I think it is more…it will appeal more to my professors specific wants.</td>
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<th>Anyone else? Google or “search all”?</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Google- (at least 4-5 responding the same)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- I have to have it</td>
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<tr>
<td>- You have to make this into like part of your routine</td>
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There are a lot of steps that are easier than going to the website, once you get to the website, then you have to click on library and then you have to click on “search all” then you have to enter.

My homepage on my computer is google, I just have to go to google scholar that’s it.

I think that is the drawback of this, that you have to go through this site and that is what I am saying, if you guys just had a site that is direct you will more likely use it.

I think it would be helpful even if you went on google and people would search Suffolk and then there would be a little click on tab for “search all” then you could just click on it and go right to the page and search because then it would be more advertised as well.

Maybe you can go to the website which was maybe specifically “SCCC database” in particular where it is specifically for Suffolk Students

That’s actually is what I would do

In this class when we wrote our research paper I was researching something ocean acidification I wasn’t really out there on the web too much and I found more information and articles on “search all” than I found searching google. It was easier to find the articles on “search all”

I think google is more entertainment based where as “search all” is more academic based like they estimate that you are actually doing this for research and it gives you more information in an article where like google gives you information but its entertainment too.....

I find that I found out more on my topic on google than I did on “search all” and it did have articles that were more in the media so I think what you are saying is that the media is more prevalent in google than it is in “search all”. So even if it was Fox News or PBS they had one or two articles in the “search all” in the website but they had far more and maybe the topic was a hot topic or maybe just new but it was a little more.....

It just has a lot of information on it

This actually cuts down on the time it takes to look up your topic, it gives you specific details about your topic and sources

So, it would just be a link?

No, Just a Suffolk Database page

It’s not a link, its like a legit website- if I search for Suffolk database on google it would take me one button to get to the Suffolk Database instead for the library I mean first searching for the SCCCC site, then finding the library, then finding the “search all “button, I mean that is a lot of stuff.

Laughter- yes people are lazy

I mean like sometimes I don’t plan to use articles or databases all the time even when my professors assign and assignment so I always get into the habit of going to my SCCC because library right there, mean it says admissions, academics and then library and I just don’t think that is where the button should be and this is where I would go to find a program or a professors number or to see the pre-requisites and like I don’t really think that is where the library should be
So you would me more likely go to MySCCC if the library were linked……

- Yes, I don’t think it is linked right
- I think also that we are forgetful and if we haven’t used it in a while it’s like “Oh, I forgot” and then go to the library to get “search all”.
- And then again, I use google everyday
Part One - Introduction

1. Welcome everyone to the group. Explain the purpose of the focus group – to get feedback from students about using Search All – ease of use, advantages, disadvantages etc.
2. Explain that their answers will be anonymous, but we will be tape recording the discussion at the end. Hand out permission forms, have them sign and collect.
3. Briefly demonstrate how to get to Search All on the Library homepage. Do a simple search and point out the filters on the left.
4. Get everyone on a computer and hand out the worksheet.

Part Two – Students complete worksheet

Demographic Questions

1. What is your gender? __________________________
2. How many semesters of college have you completed? __________
3. What is your major? _____________________________________
4. Have you ever used Search All? ______________

Using Search All

Start each new search at the Library homepage. Click on the Search All tab before you type in your search terms:

1. Search for “second hand smoke”. Find the Subject limit on the left and choose 2 subject headings that seem the most relevant to your keywords. Write the subject headings here:
   a. __________________________________________________________________
   b. __________________________________________________________________
2. How easy was this to accomplish?
   ___ Very Easy
   ___ Easy
   ___ Difficult
   ___ Very Difficult
3. Go back to the Library homepage and select **Search All**. Search for **Facebook and privacy**. Find a useful academic journal article written in the last two years. Write the title and date of the article here:
   a. Title
   _______________________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________________
   b. Date _____________

4. How easy was this to accomplish?

   ___ Very Easy
   ___ Easy
   ___ Difficult
   ___ Very Difficult

5. Go back to the Library homepage and select **Search All**. Search for information on a topic of your choice.
   a. Write your search term(s) here:
      ______________________________________________________________________
   b. Refine your search results if you wish. Select one useful item from your search results:
      Author ________________________________________________________________
      Title ________________________________________________________________
      Type of source (e.g. book, academic journal, video, etc.) ___________________ 

6. How easy was this to accomplish?

   ___ Very Easy
   ___ Easy
   ___ Difficult
   ___ Very Difficult

7. In the future will you use **Search All** for college research projects?

   ___ Yes
   ___ Maybe
   ___ No
8. Would you recommend Search All to a friend?
   
   ___ Yes
   ___ Maybe
   ___ No

Part Three – Get everyone into a circle. Ask the following questions. This portion will be tape recorded.

Questions:

1. What are some advantages to using Search All for college research?

2. What are some disadvantages to using Search All for college research?

3. Can you suggest any ways to make it easier to use?

4. Think of a topic you had to research recently. How does Search All compare with that process?
1. What are some advantages to using Search All for college research?

- It provides a lot of different books, articles, etc. and gives a lot of information that could help a lot in research.
- The advantages are you have a big search span when you need to look up a topic.
- Some advantages of using search all for college research, most cites already cited very easy to find what you are looking for.
- You can select how you want to look up. They give you a lot to choose from.
- Finding quick and precise information in an organized manner.
- You get a lot of information.
- Some advantages of using Search All for college research is that you have multiple things to use.
- Some advantages to using Search All for college research is that it gives you multiple sources instantly and puts them in order of relevance.
- It searches every article, book, etc.
- It is a quick and efficient way of gathering information for research topic. Quick. Easy to weed out articles that have nothing to do with search topic.
- It gives you the ability to gather all types of information easy to navigate.
- You are given scholarly information and you know the information will be approved by the professor.
- It gives a great amount of results, and it is available at all times when online.
- Sometimes it bring up information not about your topic.
- There is a variety and different type of research you can choose from.
- Fairly clear as to where to enter or being your search.
- You are able to find whatever you need about the article you need.
- There are a lot of options to choose from when looking up a certain topic.
- Broader range.
- It helps you find news, articles, magazines, academic journals, reports, and books on many subjects, without having to scan the internet.
- It gives you more options when you search a topic like magazines, books, ebooks, journals, videos, etc.
APPENDIX B

2. What are some disadvantages to using Search All for college research?

- Sometimes it comes up with thousands of sources which can make it difficult to know which ones to choose.
- The disadvantages is to see if it’s liable to use for you research.
- Some advantages are there a lot of options to go through
- You have to go through the article and find if it is liable to your research
- Sometimes hard to find the date of publishing
- Sometimes it gives you information that doesn’t really have anything to do with what you search
- Some disadvantages of using search all for college research is that you have to go through lists and lists to find exactly what you want and some articles that they give you they do not go with your topic it may only have one paragraph on the thing you are looking up
- Some of the disadvantages to using Search All is the search terms you use have to be exactly in the article for it to show up
- It doesn’t narrow it down
- Not all the sources are full articles that are available right from Search all. No other disadvantages I can think of.
- Overwhelming amount of information. Information given doesn’t always match up with what you searched.
- It can be time consuming because there is so much information that comes up, some of which has little to do with the topic searched.
- At times it provides to many results and its time consuming to find the right one although refining results helps
- You can find really old or up to date information
- I don’t see any disadvantages at the moment
- There was multitude of results and not all are relevant. When searching subject in the college search I clicked wrong place and subject bar disappeared.
- Sometimes you can’t find a especific book
- At the same time, I feel like there are to many at first, and they are all cluttered together
- Printing the texts. Finding the actual text.
- At times the search engine produces literature that is not specific to what the user is searching for
- Sometimes you don’t always find what you’re looking for and the search engine isn’t always right.

All comments are verbatim.
Prepared by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, 2016
APPENDIX B

- It is scattered

3. Can you suggest any ways to make Search All easier to use?

- Not any that I can think of
- To make it easier by putting the article that has most information about the topic on top and working its way down
- To make it easier to put the most used at the top
- Put at the top the most used by students
- No, the search engine, to myself, is very efficient
- It is all ready really easy
- When you search for a topic it should give you articles about what your talking about in the whole article not just one paragraph
- Ways to make search all easier to use is to make suggestions of related searches
- To show related articles not articles where it’s not the need topic
- Become its own Search Engine for everyone else not in Suffolk to use.
- Make it easier to find a source that you used
- Narrows down search results to better fir the topic. Make it easier to do so.
- Not really
- No, I feel that it’s very simple to use.
- Not at this time
- To take the search all sources away is to confusing looking at all of them
- Link to the actual documents
- Broaden the topics, so more students can find what they’re looking for.
- No it’s a good site.

4. How would you compare Search All to Google search? (process and results)

- Google has a more broad selection of a general subject where as Search All allows you to type in several key words to get more specific information.
- The Search All is better than google because it does the citing for us.
- Comparing Search All to google is search all cites everything for you there is always an author and a date.
- Search All cites your article. More media on google
- Search all is more academic based and google is more entertainment based.
- Google search is better (faster & more info).

All comments are verbatim.
Prepared by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, 2016
APPENDIX B

- Search All is faster than Google. Search All you can trust, Google anyone can post anything.
- Search All is comparable to Google in that you need to put exact terms to find information.
- Similar but it doesn’t access articles that aren’t on the library system.
- Search All does not have wacky websites that pop-up that can relay false information. In my opinion Search All is much more reliable.
- Search all is more factual.
- Google searching doesn’t always have trusted information where search all is only scholarly information.
- It provides a focus on scholarly articles and can be limited, while Google gives results of all kind, unless using Google Scholar.
- Search all is actually information Google is just random topics that people who have to most money put their ideas first.
- Google gives you websites that sometimes have nothing to do with your topic.
- Process is a bit longer than Google but maybe more precise as far as pulling up closer to your search needs. Definitely more info as far as author, publication, etc. Without having to search the article or book.
- Google has more options.
- The search all is much easier for school because it brings you right to information you need, but Google finds you other websites that are helpful.
- Google is less reliable than search all. Search all is more specific the topic than Google.
- Google provides more info – however too many ads – SCCC only reputable literature.
- Google searching won’t always bring you all the magazines, articles, etc., but it will find your topic. Search all doesn’t have every topic as Google does.
- It’s kind of the same. Maybe you just get more reliable information on a topic on Search all than Google. Very likely.

All comments are verbatim.
Prepared by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, 2016
### APPENDIX C

#### Advantages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>faster, more results, easier to talk about format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I found it particularly useful for “narrow” searches at first, but it seems to also be helpful for exploring.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. It's the only way to find streaming media from FoD and Kanopy (since we're not putting those records in the catalog)
2. Students are used to seeing a single list of results; it's not intuitive to them to have to search one tool for one type of resource (like books) then switch to databases to find articles, sometimes using more than one database. So Search All simplifies things for students.
3. You can still teach them about how information differs by type (what a background source is, the difference between magazine and academic journal articles, etc.) using the limiters.
4. It's also the only way to find eBooks on EBSCO other than knowing about that database and searching it individually.
5. Search All opens up more of our resources to more people: you don't have to have a lot of prior knowledge about what a database is, what a catalog is, & how they're different, and you don't have to already know what databases exist AND how to find them on the website.
6. The permalinks to the Search All records are constructed properly--sometimes if you go into individual databases, the permalink isn't actually a permalink.
7. It saves time in instruction sessions if you can show students just one search tool and how to use the limiters than showing them the catalog and the article databases separately.
8. The catalog display and search options are very clunky. I love not having to use it to find books anymore!

Provides a broad overview of what is in the databases without needing to individually search multiple databases.

Serendipitous finding is splendid! Works well for less common & multi-disciplinary subjects to determine where to find information. Easier to get students directly into searching than navigating through multiple clicks to get to a specific database. All of the above save time. And save frustration for students. They don't need to remember the name of a database and how to get to it. Can search for ebooks, and GVRL ebooks and print books at the same time. Provides book citations. Science Direct does not provide student friendly citations. I can often efficiently find a citation through Search All. Less fussy search interface for catalog records than aleph. And there are probably more benefits that I can't think of right now, but basically I am finding Search All helpful. In terms of instruction, for many classes it is more practical than individual databases. For PSY classes, I still generally go to PSY databases. I think for our students who will transfer, they will benefit from learning about Search All at SCCC. Penny

It has encouraged me to use the Gale Virtual Reference Library more often by including its contents in the results list. I tend to use it when I'm not sure of the best place to search for a topic or for interdisciplinary topics. Honestly though I usually check which source is providing the most relevant results and make a mental note to check there directly in future. I also use it when I'm hoping for an eBook match for my search. I like that it includes Research Starters material too.

I have access to a variety of different sources (books, journal articles, etc.). In addition, the research starter is an excellent starting point.

It saves a good deal of time. Students are often in a rush to get info and this feature certainly speeds things up by offering many resources to choose from.
### APPENDIX C

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Has articles and videos and books all together. All the usual limiters. Quantity of sources (This might be a drawback as well)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reinforces that information comes in many forms. “Digital literacy” is cool. Eases the searching process for students but complicates the “results” usage. All departments and faculty should be informed that this resource exists and that students are using it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>So far it’s most useful in the classroom as a time saver and boredom reliever from showing multiple databases. Also makes it easy to explain different formats because they are all right there on the screen. Filters easy to use; like being able to browse through subject headings, puts access to films more front and center. At ref desk I tend to use individual databases if I know what I want, but for students getting started with a broad topic I think Search All is more effective. The more I use it the more I like it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casting a wide net.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Starter Citation (drafts) for print books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive experiences of SEARCH ALL at the reference desk: -Efficient in helping a student identify whether a GoogleScholar article they have found is peer-reviewed or not. I do this by doing a title search &gt;limiting to &quot;peer-reviewed.&quot; -Efficient in finding scholarly, peer-reviewed articles for uncommon topics. For example, a student who didn't get any results by searching for “Edwin Guthrie” in Academic Search Complete would does the same search in SEARCH ALL would, in the first (and only peer-reviewed source) result, get a JSTOR article. This would be time-saving since s/he wouldn't have to go through individual databases. -Easy to set up an account and save items from various sources (Library Catalog and databases) all in one place. Again, time-saving in terms of retrieving and organizing sources for research. I plan on using SEARCH ALL in my one-shot instruction demos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When you don't know where to begin, it is very useful, also if a research starter is the first hit for someone just starting their research.</td>
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### Disadvantages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Need to understand how to limit, too many results, confusion about how to limit to books</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It doesn't search everything: some Proquest databases, has had technical problems connecting to GVRL; have recently been unable to open eBooks on the EBSCO platform from off campus through the Search All record. These aren't drawbacks, just technical issues that can be addressed with the vendor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I wish there was an easier way to limit one search to print books and ebooks. Eastern location does not work properly. Do we need both Ebsco ebook collections in the list of content providers? &quot;Available in Library Collection&quot; and Full text is confusing. &quot;Books Only &amp; Media Only&quot; is confusing because it does not include ebooks unless they are in library catalog. Penny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As with most other federated search products, I find the number of results overwhelming and that it's not efficient in terms of time spent on searches.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If anything, I believe it isn't as focused as using a single database.</td>
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</table>
### APPENDIX C

It's too confusing for students new to research, which most of our students are. They don't know enough about narrowing down, and are confused as to what kind of resources they are retrieving in these searches.

It's confusing for the beginner researcher - they do not understand the differences between the types of sources they are looking at.

Doesn't analyze book contents. Keyword search in book catalog would catch chapters that are relevant. Perhaps too much information for a student just getting started in his/her topic. One might forget to use databases such as JSTOR and the NYT historical archives. Does it include the contents of every database we subscribe to?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Search for &quot;Protestant Reformation&quot;. Results: image, book, video recording, academic journal, e-book, periodical,&quot;view record in Literature Resource Center&quot; Left column with terms expanders, limiters, scholarly(peer reviewed) journals, publication dates, source types. It is like being dropped into a foreign city and asked to find your way when all the signs are in a foreign language Needs &quot;how to&quot; hand outs like we have for citations.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The distinction between limiting to Books % Media or Books could be confusing. Full-text limit is confusing because the default is already “available in library collection”. Being able to limit to a campus might be confusing if you were looking for articles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casting too wide a net. Not being able to use it with students who need to learn more about source types.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Search All” is actually &quot;Search Most&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I've experienced the following technical glitches: 1. If you're searching in the original basic SEARCH ALL box and using the &quot;Peer-Reviewed&quot; and &quot;Full-text&quot; limiters, they will not transfer to the search results page. The user will have to again select those limiters in the results page. 2. Users can't go back to the original SEARCH ALL search on library homepage back clicking the browser back button. Or, after clicking on the Library icon to get back to the homepage, the basic SEARCH ALL doesn't work. So, the user has to find the original browser window of the initial search to proceed with searching again - if they prefer the simple search interface. From this experience, I will instruct students to go directly the SEARCH ALL &gt; Advanced Search and start their search from there so that they are able to successfully limit results to peer-reviewed/full-text. And also so they get used to the multiple box interface. See screencast showing all of the above issues: <a href="http://screencast.com/t/m5BmbsJL4sY">http://screencast.com/t/m5BmbsJL4sY</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many times a student doesn't really want a book. You need patience to do limiting from the left column and students might not understand that. It is complex until you have used it a few times.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I don't see it as a benefit for learners in our college community.