The New Batangas State University Library Website and Library System

As part of its continued efforts to provide not only a renewed sense of normalcy but also fresh, new ways to deliver academic services amidst the global pandemic, the Batangas State University accelerates the shift to digital and electronic means of reaching out to its stakeholders. The challenges of the health crisis served as impetus to explore better opportunities for digitized and online service delivery to reach a wider audience with greater speed, access, and convenience, while maintaining or even improving the quality of services.

At the core of this transition to digitized services is the library, the central hub for learning, the repository of relevant information, and the cornerstone for the acquisition and generation of new knowledge. The university has been proactive, resourceful, and innovative in expanding its library services to address the restrictions in physical movement and to provide a more exciting library experience to the academic community.

The university enhanced its library website and library system to offer a wide array of services in a new platform that is easily accessible, highly interactive, and rich with resources that are perfect for research, upskilling, or simple leisure reading. The revitalized library services is a testament to the university's commitment to support the Red Spartans in their academic and research journey, even at the comfort of their home.

Leading Innovations, Transforming Lives

1. **BatStateU Library Website** | *http://library.batstate-u.edu.ph/.* This serves as the digital gate and multi-service platform where members of the academic community can access the university's digital services and online databases. This is the gateway for locating information from the web, curated open online resources, and user education.

2. **BatStateU Library System.** This is the Online Public Access Catalog where students can find their needed resource material.

3. **Online borrowing/returning, renewal, and reservation system.** Members of the academic community can place a request for book reservations for pickup at a pre-arranged date. They can also renew borrowed resources remotely.

4. **Batangas State University Library Facebook Page.** This serves as the library's online "Current Awareness" platform to connect with the BatStateU academic community. By posting updates, the library informs the academic community of its new acquisitions, digital and physical services, practical information about changes in the library's opening times, and links to new and exciting print and online resources. It also updates the university community about any new development. Social media followers can engage with the library by commenting on posts and sharing them with their friends. The library's official social media page is at https://www.facebook.com/BatStateU.Library.

5. **Digital Reference Service.** Through this service, members of the academic community are assisted in their various information needs, specifically on the resource materials for their research and academic assignments. Various platforms are used to perform Digital Reference Service:

   Official Chat Service. The Chat ELVIRA represents the online presence of the BatStateU Library to assist the academic community's information needs. Elvira is the name of the first recorded librarian at Batangas State University in the 1950s. Powered by Facebook messenger, Chat ELVIRA stands for Electronic Library Virtual Assistant.

   Official BatStateU Library email. The library also assists the information needs of the academic community through its official email. For the main campus, the email address is library.main@g.batstate-u.edu.ph.

6. **Scanning Services.** Members of the academic community may request for books and theses for scanning, subject to copyright rules. They may chat Elvira for their request and the library will scan the preliminary pages (title page, table of contents) and send these to them free of charge. They may select the pages they want to be scanned by sending the request via e-mail. It is free for faculty and enrolled students of the university.

   In order to comply with copyright and fair use, the library may scan only one chapter of any book. Since the digitization of the thesis/dissertation is on-going, the library prioritizes scanning of theses/dissertations that have no digital copy yet. Requests for priority scanning may also be done through Chat Elvira and through email.

A quick glance at the website's features and services: The Homepage

Quick Access to Online Resources

Members of the academic community can access the following online resources:

IEEE Xplore

IEEE Xplore provides web access to more than five million documents from publications in computer science, electrical engineering, electronics, and allied fields. Its documents and other materials comprise more than 300 peer-reviewed journals, more than 1,900 global conferences, more than 11,000 technical standards.

EBSCOhost

EBSCOhost is a powerful online reference system accessible via the Internet. It offers a variety of proprietary full text databases and popular databases from leading information providers. The comprehensive databases range from general reference collections to specially designed, subject-specific databases for public, academic, medical, corporate and school libraries.

Philippine eLib

Available resources include:
- Union catalog of the five partners;
- Digitized Filipiniana materials including theses and dissertations;
- Special collection/researchers of the five partners; and,
- Online resources/subscription to electronic databases.

E-Thesis

This is a collection of digital copy of theses and dissertations submitted to the library. The ongoing digitization ensures that all titles would be available in digital format. The library accommodates requests for priority scanning of titles of manuscripts that have yet to be digitized.

CHEST

The Compendium of Higher Education Science and Technology Research is the project of the university's Research Management Information System and Publication. The academic community may search research papers by category, campus, or college.

eLibrary USA

eLibraryUSA is a digital collection of trusted information resources from the United States with quality newspapers, magazines, journals, books, dissertations and award-winning films and videos. It has eight online databases that can be accessed free of charge once users register/subscribe.

The **PHL CHED Connect Platform** contains higher education materials in various formats that are useful for teaching, learning, and research purposes.

The **Digital Commons Network** brings free, full-text, scholarly articles from hundreds of universities and colleges worldwide. Curated by university librarians and their supporting institutions, the Network includes a growing collection of peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, dissertations, working papers, conference proceedings, and other original scholarly work.

IOPScience

It is an online service for eJournal and eBook content published by IOP (Institute of Physics) Publishing. IOPscience embraces innovative technologies to make it easier for researchers to access scientific, technical, and medical content.

MDPI

Molecular Diversity Preservation International is a pioneer in scholarly open access publishing, it has the mission to foster open scientific exchange in all forms, across all disciplines. They serve scholars from around the world to ensure that the latest research is freely available and all content is distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution License.

Open Book Publishers

Books are published in free online editions for every title in PDF, HTML and XML formats. These can be read via online, downloaded, reused or embedded anywhere.

Online Borrowing

Members of the academic community can borrow books and schedule the date of their pick up via the online platform. Likewise, they can renew their borrowed book using this platform, saving them the time to go to the library building. Request for priority scanning of thesis is also done using this service.

Get Started

This will link to quick video tutorials on how the academic community can access online resources and services.

Library Guide to the New Normal

This is a collection of guides on how to observe Health and Safety Protocols inside the library, the proper handling of library materials, and how to return the books following the safety protocols of physcial distancing to have less physical contact among borrowers.

Chat Service – Chat Elvira

Upon loading the website address, there is a handy chat box at the lower right side of the page. Users can chat ELVIRA (Electronic Virtual Reference Assistant) for all information needs, particularly on resources and services of the library. Users may also check the FAQs with automated response for increased convenience.

BatStateU Library on Facebook

BatStateU Library can also be reached through social media. This serves as the online "Current Awareness" platform of the Library to connect with the BatStateU academic community. By posting updates, the library can inform the academic community of its new acquisitions, services, practical information about changes in the library's opening times, and links to new and exciting print and online resources. The page also updates the university community about new developments. Followers can engage with the library by commenting on posts and sharing them with their friends.

Updates and Announcements

A quick link shows the updates on featured open sources that the community can use for their research projects and assignments. Important instructions and announcements are also found here.

New Acquisitions

Featured here are the newly acquired books of the library.

A quick glance at the website's features:
Using the Navigation Tabs

Exploring the website using the navigation tabs provides information on the library's vision-mission, contacts, library spaces, different collection types, available online resources, library services, open resources, research support tools, links to other online resources, and the FAQs.

On available online resources

These are already featured in Quick Access, which can be found at the Homepage.

On Services

Available services include Chat Elvira, Scanning Services, Request of referral letter (when face to face services resumes), Certification for Thesis submission (to resume only once students are instructed to submit the hard copy of their thesis).

Chat Elvira (already featured in Quick Access found at the Homepage)

On Open Resources

The website serves as a gateway for locating information from the web the likes of Digital Library & Institutional Repository, Open Access eBooks, Open Access eJournals, Open Textbooks, Reference Sources, Digital content creation tools and Subject Webliography.

On Research Support Tools

The community are also guided to different research support tools that are useful to faculty and students doing their research project. These are the following: Patent Search Tools, Open Thesis/ Dissertation, The Open Citation Index, Citation Management Tools, Research and Collaboration Tools.

On Links

Found here are the links to other information sources that are available in the university, like BatStateU Central and Learning Resources, as well as information sources that can be found in Philippine government websites and other private and non-government organizations.

On Help

Found here are the Frequently Ask Questions (FAQs) about library services and collections.