Getting started with Omni

Introduction

This video will give you an overview of what's new in Omni, Laurier's new Library system, and what's different than Primo, our old system.

Search content

The biggest difference is what Omni searches. Like Primo, Omni searches Laurier's print and other resources and a subset of our electronic resources. New in Omni, though, you can search not only for print resources from Guelph and Waterloo but also from 11 other Ontario university libraries.

By default, Omni searches Laurier Library only. As you type your search though, you will see other options below the search box. These include Laurier plus Guelph and Waterloo and Laurier plus all Omni libraries. Choose one of these options to search print resources from those libraries too.

You can change to one of the other search zones after you've searched. Choose the zone you want from the drop-down menu beside the search box at the top of the page and click Search. You can also see holdings from individual Omni libraries by using the Omni Libraries limit in the left column. You need to have included Omni libraries in your search first.

If a book is at both Laurier and another library, the Laurier information displays automatically. If Laurier doesn't own it but another library does, the status says Check for ways to get it. Request a book from another library or another campus by clicking on the record to see the book details.

To request a book, click on the request option in the Get It area. This option looks different depending on where the book is located. If it is at another Laurier Library, you will see Borrow from Laurier Library. Click on this to see the request form.

If the book is at Waterloo or Guelph, it will say Borrow from Another Omni Library in the Get It area. Click on this to see the request form. Book delivery time is the same as it always was in Primo, from 1-3 business days.

If the book isn't at Laurier, Guelph, or Waterloo, you will see Request via Interlibrary Loan. Click on this to see the request form. For this option you'll need to log in using the barcode on your OneCard and your last name. Delivery time from other Omni libraries takes from 5-10 days. If a book is at multiple libraries, the Library will pick the quickest option.

Like Primo, you need to sign in with your Laurier network login to place a request. You can use the links at the top of the page.

Search Interface

There are also some key differences from Primo in the Omni search interface.

You'll see some tabs at the top that link to other Library web pages and Omni search options. See more options by clicking on the 3 dots.

When you're signed in, your name appears at the top. Click on it to show the account menu. From here you can renew books, check the status of your requests, and view Favorites.

In Primo, there were tabs to limit your results to books or articles. In Omni, you do this using the Resource Type limits on the left. Resource types are in order by number of results, so you may have to click Show More to find the one you want, like books.

Most search limits on the left are similar to Primo. In Omni though you can set multiple limits at the same time. For example, I can include or exclude multiple subjects, then click Apply Filters to have them all take effect at once. Active limits show up at the top of the column. Click on the x next to one to remove it. You can also lock a limit so it stays in effect through multiple searches. Click on the left side of the limit to lock it in place for your current browser session.

In Primo, you could check a box next to a record to add it to your Eshelf. In Omni, you pin records to your Favorites instead. Click on the pin icon above a record to pin or favorite it. You can save your search by clicking on Save Query at the top of the search results. See all your Favorites, including your pinned records and saved searches, by clicking on the pin icon at the top of the screen.

Each record has links to get a citation to that item or email it to yourself. For articles, there are also links to see items cited by or cited in the article, where available.

To see an item's details in Omni, click on the record. For online resources you'll see links here to access full text online. This is where you'll find the Get It area to request from another library. Scroll down to see subjects and a description or abstract. For articles, related articles display at the right. For books, browse books in the same call number range at the bottom of the page.

More Help & Questions

That's an overview of Omni. For more details, check out the Omni help page at
library.wlu.ca/help/omni.

If you have any questions, ask us at library.wlu.ca/help/askus.