LIBRARIES EXPANDS INTO E-RESERVES

BY ASHLEY NIETFELD

As a next-generation, land-grant university library, we believe in the power of access to information resources, innovative tools and collaborative spaces for the betterment of society. We live out this core value through our offerings of books, journals, workshops, technology, spaces and more, available at no cost to our patrons.

BORROW INSTEAD OF BUY

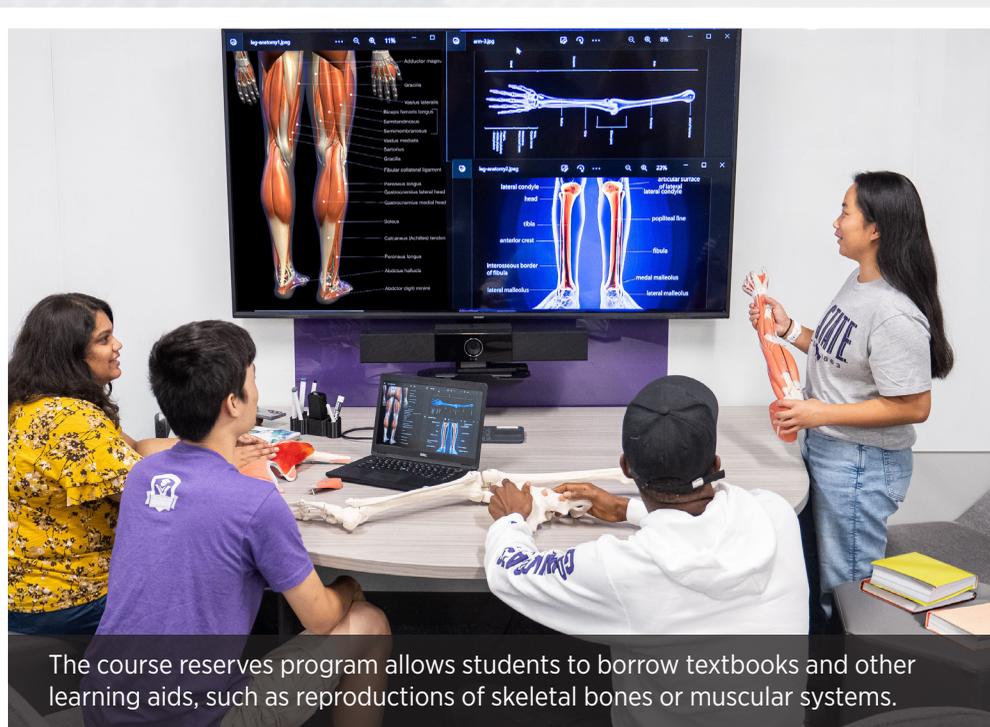For many years, the Libraries has offered a course reserves program that permits students to check out textbooks and other physical materials from the library help desk for a short period of time. This allows students to save money while still being able to access the materials they need.

Faculty submit requests to the Libraries to add their textbooks to course reserves. Once added, students can check out these textbooks for up to two hours at a time, which gives more students the opportunity to take advantage of this free resource.

The program also includes other physical materials that aid student learning, such as reproduction human skeletal bones. Providing these types of materials to check out gives students additional time outside of class to interact with them, increasing learning and retention.

INTRODUCING E-RESERVES

This year, the Libraries launched a new course reserves program called e-reserves. With this program, instructors can place digitized materials online for students to

The course reserves program allows students to borrow textbooks and other learning aids, such as reproductions of skeletal bones or muscular systems.

access. These items can include electronic articles or books that the Libraries already owns, scans of print book chapters or images, lecture notes, videos and more.

Students can easily access these materials online for free at any time, making it a great option for both on-campus and online courses. The program increases the accessibility of materials by providing content that is searchable and compatible with screen readers while ensuring material usage is within the bounds of copyright law.

To make e-reserves easier to access, Mellissa Polston, the Libraries' course reserves coordinator, worked with K-State's Division of Information Technology to create a new integration in Canvas, the web-based learning management system used by K-State to house course information. The integration allows students to

access required and supplementary course materials in one spot by showing all items on reserve for a particular class code.

"E-reserves, specifically with the addition of the Canvas integration, is a service that puts student success first," said Polston. "Each semester, we evaluate e-reserves usage data and find that students are using it with high frequency when professors arrange the service for them and communicate its availability. Our goal in the coming year is to gain more support from teaching faculty so more students have access to their course materials."

With the cost of education continuing to rise,

K-State Libraries is committed to finding ways to help save students money and improve access to resources.

E-RESERVES INCREASES THE ACCESSIBILITY OF MATERIALS BY PROVIDING CONTENT THAT IS SEARCHABLE AND COMPATIBLE WITH SCREEN READERS WHILE ENSURING MATERIAL USAGE IS WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF COPYRIGHT LAW.

KANSAS STATE
Libraries