LibKey Discovery UX Evaluation – Fall 2023

Study conducted in October 2023 by the TTU Library UX Unit



9 undergraduates participated in this study.



Participants completed a short task and a brief interview in return for snacks and library swag.

Overall the students thought the wording was clear and understandable.

- Users overall liked that the LibKey feature links reduced the number of clicks it takes to get to an article.
- Users liked how the feature gave them the option to either directly download a PDF of the article or go directly to the full text of the article.
- User generally did not realize that the links were present because of their design and placement.

Initial questions: Is the OneSearch LibKey feature wording clear and understandable? Do any of its links seem redundant?

As a result of testing, we recommended the following solutions:

- Consider changing the feature link colors and styles to make them more visible.
- Consider changing some of the surrounding nonfeature link colors and styles to create better cohesion on the OneSearch results page.
- Keep the "Read Online" and "Download PDF" links.
- Remove the other LibKey feature links since they were rarely encountered.

Bottom line: LibKey is a useful feature, but is currently not very noticeable to users.

We want library patrons to use these LibKey features to access the online research materials they want with fewer clicks. Given how non-noticeable the feature currently is, we hope that these changes will make the feature stand out while not obstructing other relevant information.