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Nicholls State University's Ellender Memorial Library is implementing two new programs to help students better research and utilize the on-campus library.

Clifton Theriot, co-director and archivist at the Ellender Memorial Library, said that LibGuides is the main project the Library is working on at the moment. LibGuides is essentially a librarian liaison program where each librarian will be assigned a particular major or discipline. Theriot mentioned that students having problems finding information would be able to access pages online listing the contact information for their LibGuide, further adding, "We even have pictures of that librarian."

Students are able to access the comprehensive LibGuide website where each major is listed. Students can access the LibGuide website by visiting the Ellender Memorial Library website. Once on the LibGuide site, students are able to select their major. Upon finding their major, a box will appear listing the different concentrations of that particular major.

"LibGuides will guide students directly to what they need," Theriot said. Nicholls was not the first university to roll out LibGuides. Theriot mentioned that some

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universities across the State of Louisiana are taking advantage of the program because “it is the ‘in thing’ right now because so many see it as being so helpful to students.”

Biology senior Matthew Hymel commented, “LibGuides is a lifesaver. Majoring in biology requires a ton of time spent researching. I have little patience when it comes to research because I usually cannot locate what I am looking for, so I find myself giving up rather quickly. With LibGuides, I am able to reach out and quickly get help whenever I most need it. It is great knowing there is a librarian willing to help me.”

With the introduction of LibGuides, students may worry that the traditional way the Ellender Library catalogues materials will be replaced, but Theriot said that is not the case. “Students will still have access to our general catalogue, but LibGuides will list specific databases pertaining to each discipline.” LibGuides also lists new books and databases available for use so that students are aware of what is new in the library.

LibGuides is not the only program that the Ellender Memorial Library is beginning. Bibliographic instruction classes are also being taught. Theriot stated that all freshmen must take University 101, and it is in that class that students visit the library during the semester. Students enrolled in University 101 classes will essentially have a day of training in the library. “Students will come to the library for a couple class periods,” Theriot explained, “and learn how to use the databases.”

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Students are also given tours of the building to get an idea of where various departments and resources are located within the library. "Tours have always been a part of the University 101 curriculum," Theriot mentioned, "but they are now being revamped for a more hands on approach." Ultimately, University 101 teachers decide what they want to cover each semester, but Theriot said they have discussed over the summer possible ideas for each class. Teachers can choose a combination of the tour and the online database instruction class or opt for just the tour.

Theriot said the library is always open to students wanting to tour and learn more about what is being offered, and that his staff of nine librarians is always willing to assist. All a student has to do is contact a librarian liaison to set up an appointment. By doing this, the tour will be geared toward their specific major. Another point of interest is that a visit to the library is no longer needed to interact with a librarian. Librarians are beginning to get out and visit classrooms and instruct upon the professor's request.

Getting the librarians more involved is one goal of Theriot. "We want librarians out in the classroom. This is one way to get students more familiar and comfortable with the library." He added that if students are familiar with the

librarians in the classroom, they will not have a problem approaching one in the library for help.

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“I know sometimes the students feel intimidated when they come in, they’re afraid to ask questions.”

Theriot remarked, “If the librarians are in the classrooms or around campus, the students will be comfortable asking questions because they have built up of a relationship with them.”

