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The Balance Point - Authentication Issues and Updates

Christine L. Ferguson (Contributor)

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Abstract

A recent segment of the Sharpest Tool in the Shed column in this journal provided an overview of the current options for the authentication of access to electronic resources. This edition of Balance Point follows up on that column, providing updates on both the RA21 initiative and OpenAthens, while also delving more deeply into some of the issues surrounding their adoption and implementation.

Keywords: Electronic resource authentication identity federation OpenAthens RA21 user privacy

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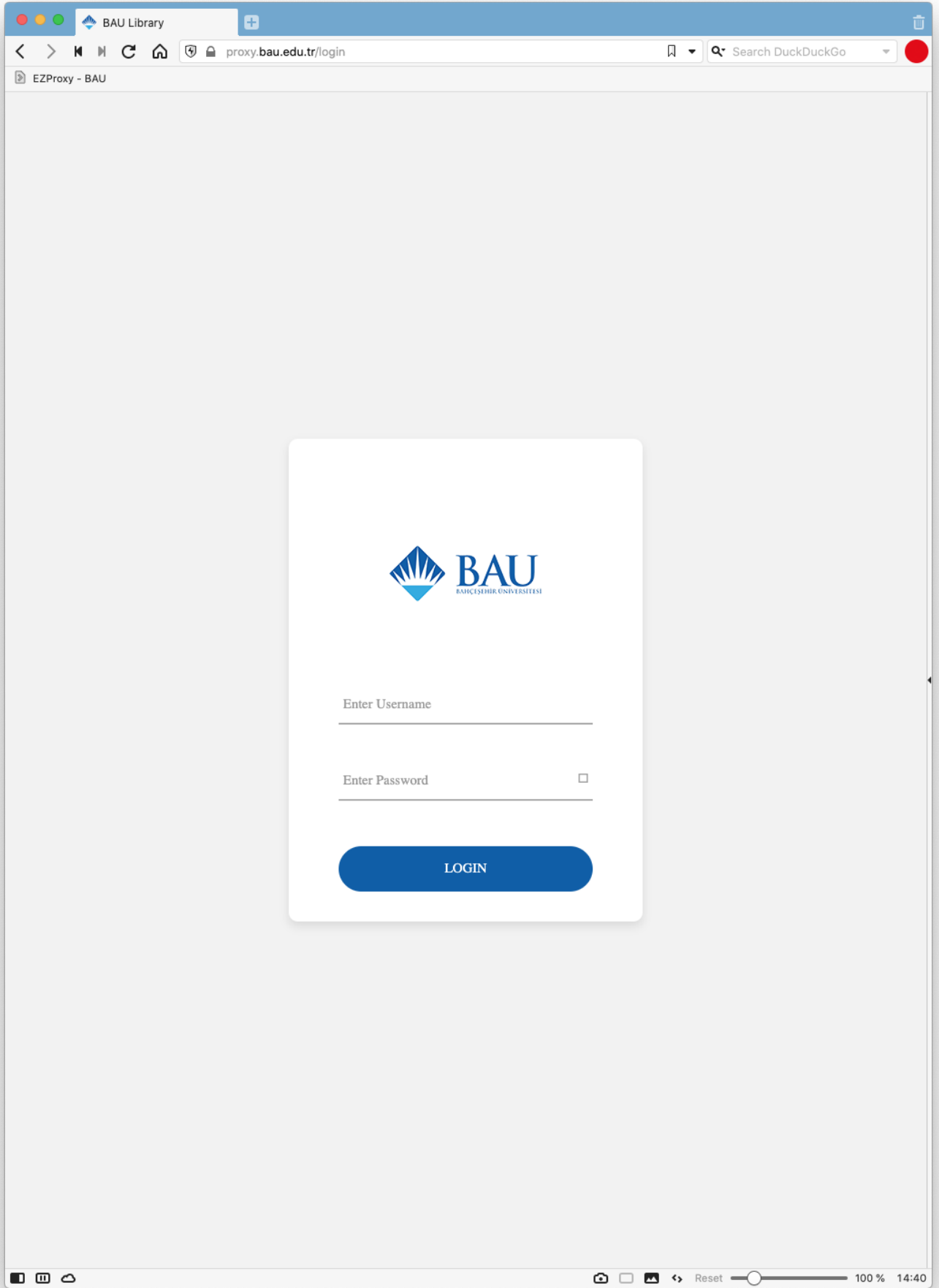
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Introduction

Elyssa Gould's recent Sharpest Tool in the Shed column provides an overview of the current options for the authentication of electronic resources, including addressing developments such as OpenAthens and Resource Access for the 21st Century (RA21) (Gould, 2018). This edition of the Balance Point column will follow up on Gould's column, first defining the issue of identity federation, providing an update on the RA21 initiative, and delving more deeply into OpenAthens and one organization's implementation of the service. The column concludes with some discussion of user privacy.

Identity federation

In this article

Installing the Bookmarklet

Installing the EZProxy bookmarklet varies depending on browser. In general, add the EZProxy link to an always visible Bookmarks or Favourites Toolbar, usually by dragging it into the toolbar. Below are specific instructions for some of the more common browsers.

Firefox

- From the View menu, choose "Toolbars" and "Bookmarks Toolbar" and "Always"
- Right-click on the Bookmarks Toolbar and select "Add Bookmark..." with the following code as the URL:

```
javascript:void(location.href=%22http://proxy.bau.edu.tr:2048/login?url=%22+location.href)
```

Chrome

- From the View menu, choose "Always Show Bookmarks Bar"
- Right-click on the Bookmarks Bar and select "Add Page..." with the following code as the URL:

```
javascript:void(location.href=%22http://proxy.bau.edu.tr:2048/login?url=%22+location.href)
```

Mobile devices

Apple iOS devices iOS

- Select and copy this JavaScript code

```
javascript:void(location.href=%22http://proxy.bau.edu.tr:2048/login?url=%22+location.href)
```

- Open web browser on your device to any page and make a bookmark (it doesn't matter which one because the name and content will be edited). To make a bookmark tap the share icon on the page and choose "Add to Bookmarks".

- Edit the bookmark by tapping the bookmark icon and then Edit. From the Edit view, find the bookmark you made and tap the right arrow to edit
- Edit the name of the bookmark to **EZProxy - BAU** (or whatever works to describe the bookmark for you) and then paste the JavaScript code into the web address space (delete web address first). Choose Done to complete the process.
- The next time you're browsing a BAU-provided resource on your mobile device off-campus, simply click or tap the **EZProxy - BAU** bookmark you created to sign in for BAU-provided access to that resource.

Android devices



- Create a bookmark named **EZProxy - BAU** (or name of your choice) following all the steps described for iOS devices.
- For **non-Chrome Android mobile browsers**: click or tap the Proxy bookmark you created to sign in for BAU-provided access to the resource.
- for **Chrome mobile browser**: start typing the name of the bookmark in the address bar of the browser (e.g., start typing EZProxy - BAU if that is what you named it), then select the bookmark when it appears in the drop down menu to run it.

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