University of Rhode Island
DigitalCommons@URI

Instruction @ the URI Libraries | Public Services

1-1-2011

Instruction @ the URI Libraries - January 2011

Mary C. MacDonald
University of Rhode Island, marymac@uri.edu

Amanda Izenstark
University of Rhode Island, amanda@mail.uri.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/instructionnews

Part of the Library and Information Science Commons

Recommended Citation
MacDonald, Mary C. and Izenstark, Amanda, "Instruction @ the URI Libraries - January 2011" (2011). *Instruction @ the URI Libraries*. Paper 3.
http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/instructionnews/3

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Public Services at DigitalCommons@URI. It has been accepted for inclusion in Instruction @ the URI Libraries by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@etal.uri.edu.

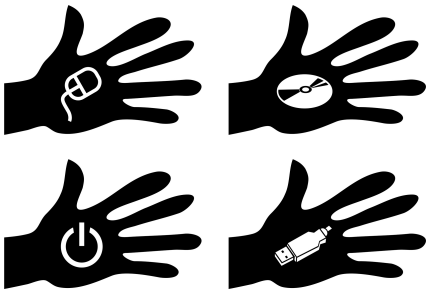
Instruction @ the URI Libraries

January 2011 • Issue 1

Encouraging News About Student Use of Wikipedia

A recent study reveals how and when students use Wikipedia for their research.

College students use Wikipedia for research purposes to the frustration of many faculty (and with the support of only a few). Faculty across campus tell us that they might support student use of Wikipedia as a beginning or first attempt at finding general background information on a subject or topic, but that it is not accepted as a source for research papers, projects, or presentations.



A study done under the auspices of Project Information Literacy at the University of Washington i-School supports this idea, and moreover, generally provides encouraging information on how students use Wikipedia for college level research. The entire report, "How today's college students use Wikipedia for course–related research," by Alison J. Head and Michael B. Eisenberg, was published in the March 2010 issue of *First Monday:* http://www.uic.edu/htbin/cgiwrap/bin/ojs/index.php/fm/article/viewArticle/2830/2476

Librarians at the Robert L. Carothers Library and Learning Commons recommend providing students with clear guidance on your Wikipedia use policy, with additional information on what types of sources you hope they will use for course-related research.

For more on this topic you may also want to read:

"Students Use Wikipedia Early and Often" from The Chronicle of Higher Education
http://chronicle.com/blogs/wiredcampus/students-use-wikipedia-earlyoften/21850

Wikipedia on using Wikipedia for research
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Researching_with_Wikipedia

LibGuides to Use and Share

Citing Correctly and Avoiding Plagiarism
http://uri.libguides.com/cite
This guide provides examples of APA, MLA and Chicago citation formats, along with some basic information about plagiarism. If you'd like to see another style included, please contact Amanda Izenstark at (401) 874-4582 or amanda@uri.edu.

Evaluating Information
http://uri.libguides.com/evalinfo
This guide offers some general rules of thumb for evaluating information - both in print and online.

Interested in Scheduling an Instruction Session for Your Students?

Now is an excellent time to contact your subject selector about setting up library instruction sessions for your classes.

Instruction can be tailored for introductory, intermediate, or advanced levels. Topics may include but are not limited to:

- Electronic database demonstrations with time for hands-on practice
- How to choose and use electronic and print periodical indexes
- Instruction in general and subject-specific reference material
- How to use the HELIN library catalog
- Internet search strategy and evaluation
- Managing Citations/Academic Integrity/Plagiarism
- Tour (General or Specific)
- Creation of online assignment research guides

If you have any questions about the Libraries' Instruction Services, please contact Chair of Public Services Deborah Mongeau or Information Literacy Librarian Mary MacDonald. Deborah can be reached by e-mail at dmongeau@uri.edu or by telephone at (401) 874-4610. Mary can be reached by e-mail at marymac@uri.edu or by telephone at (401) 874-4635.

By the Numbers

In Fall 2010...

1,423 URI 101 students learned about the Robert L. Carothers Library and Learning Commons' service points and where to get research help.

952 WRT 104, 105, and 106 students came to the library for an introduction to finding articles.

325 EGR 105 students attended a lecture and a separate lab session where they learned how to use an engineering reference database in order to identify citations to appropriate articles.

Related Updates

RefWorks 2.0 now available

The new RefWorks interface - RefWorks 2.0 - is now available. It offers a cleaner, more user-friendly display while retaining advanced features you might need. It will become the standard interface over the summer, but you can enable it for your account now by clicking on RefWorks 2.0 in the upper left of the screen once you've logged in. Don't like it and want to switch back to the "Classic" interface? Click on the little "RefWorks Classic" link when you're in 2.0.

For more assistance with RefWorks, or to set up a training session for yourself or your class, please contact Amanda Izenstark.

Instruction @ the URI Libraries provides updates and tips related to the URI Libraries' instruction programs and offerings, and is distributed in January, May, and August.

Newsletter produced by:
Amanda Izenstark
Reference & Instructional Design Librarian
amanda@uri.edu • (401) 874-4582
Mary MacDonald, Head of Instruction
marymac@uri.edu • (401) 874-4635