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

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

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Instruction @ the URI Libraries

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Tips for Using the *Library Resources* Link in Sakai

Helping students find information and get research help quickly and easily.

Have you seen it? The Library Resources link in your Sakai shell is new this fall semester. This link provides you and your students with over 150 URI Library Guides. These general and subject specific guides will help students navigate their way to better information sources.

Here are some ways to help your students explore these tools intended to support their information research needs:

- Suggest students investigate the "Featured Guides" to learn introductory information about the library building and services.
- Assign students to read the *FAQs for Undergrads* or *FAQs for Graduate Students*. Use the Library Skills Tutorial to learn or review how to use Library of Congress call numbers!
- Early in the semester point out the Featured Guides that include information on getting started at the libraries, accessing reserve materials, and a process for evaluating information sources.
- Before a research assignment, design an exercise that asks students to choose the "best" databases or library resources for the assigned topic.
- Add the Library Resources link to your syllabus and to course assignments so students will know where you want them to start their search for information.
- Have students explore the Citing Correctly and Avoiding Plagiarism Guide. Ask them to do the "Plagiarism Court: You Be The Judge" tutorial!

To explore more options for using the Library Guides in your courses, check out "Creating Effective Library Research Assignments" and contact your department library liaison to plan a research exercise or assignment for your students.

Materials in the Library Resources link in Sakai are available to all students - not just those enrolled in courses with an online component. See the entire list of Guides at http://uri.libguides.com

By the Numbers

In Fall 2011...

Over 1,800 URI 101, MUS 119, and BIO 130 students learned about the Robert L. Carothers Library & Learning Commons' service points and where to get research help.

1,364 WRT 104, 105, and 106 students came to the library for an introduction to finding articles.

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

URI 101: Students' First Formal Introduction to the Library

Students enrolled in URI 101 visit the Library as part of the standard curriculum. This session covers the very basics of using the Library and its resources, including: the major service points in the Library, how to get help in person and online, how to find and request books, and an introduction to evaluating information. (When students attend WRT 104, 105, and 106 sessions, they learn to find articles in a general database.)

As part of our assessment, we asked students what they felt were the most important things they learned during their visit. They note that they appreciate knowing where they can find books for their future research, where they can see samples of different citation formats, and where they can get help with their research. Many students note that they have little experience using libraries before coming to URI, as their high school libraries often have limited hours and resources, and knowing what's available to support their college-level research is important.

For a graphical depiction of the most commonly used words in students responses to the question "What was the most important thing you learned today about information research?" see the image above.

Related Updates

The Libraries' database trial season takes place in February and March. A link to a list of trial databases will be posted on the Libraries' home page at http://www.uri.edu/library - if you see a database you like (or don't!), please send your feedback about it to your subject selector. We value your input as we select resources for research.

RefWorks has officially switched its interface to its 2.0 version. If you would like a session on using the new interface for yourself or your class, please contact Amanda Izenstark at amanda@uri.edu

EBSCO has purchased a major database provider, HW Wilson, and is moving their databases to the EBSCO platform. As a result, you may see changes in the interface of databases you commonly use. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Reference Desk for more information.

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