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## Instruction @ the URI Libraries - January 2013

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# Instruction @ the URI Libraries



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## Announcing *InfoRhode Tutorials!*

Providing support for students beginning college-level research.

*InfoRhode* is a set of introductory level online tutorials for learning the basics of college level information research. The videos include closed captioning, and there are also PDFs of all the tutorials with captions.

### How Do I Choose the Best Databases for My Research?

Part of the InfoRhode Tutorial Series  
University of Rhode Island Libraries

These short information literacy tutorials will help students to learn, or to refresh, basic college-level information research

skills. They explain how to find, evaluate, and cite books and periodical articles using the University Libraries' catalog and databases.

Students don't need to watch the tutorials in a specific order, but we have listed them in a way that leads through the library research process, and students can choose whether to watch the videos or read segments at their own pace using the PDFs.

Please share these with your students and incorporate the tutorials into your assignments that require information research. You can find

InfoRhode Tutorials on the left side of the URI Libraries' home page, or simply link directly: <http://www.uri.edu/library/inforhode/>

Because the tutorials are hosted on YouTube, they will play on all devices, regardless of operating system.

These tutorials were produced by Professor Amanda Izenstark, along with Professor Jim Kinnie, who co-wrote the scripts and worked on the many details before final production. The library is currently piloting an online assessment for InfoRhode that will be ready for university-wide use later this year.

This project is supported by an "Innovative Approaches Using Technology" grant from the Provost's Office, University of Rhode Island.

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## Suggestions for Using the InfoRhode Tutorials with Classes

- Use as an extra credit activity
  - Warm-up for your scheduled library instruction visit
  - Snow day learning opportunity
  - Pop quiz
  - Follow-up to library session
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## Collaborative Projects? How About Collaborative Bibliographies?

You may already be assigning collaborative projects, and seeing students working collaboratively in Sakai or in the Google Drive accounts that are bundled with their my.uri.edu accounts. But are you aware of the collaborative functionality of many citation management tools?

RefWorks, Zotero, and Mendeley as well as the basic citation managers in EBSCO and ProQuest databases offer your students the opportunity to share folders of good sources they've found, format the citations, and share the results of their information research.

Citation managers also allow students to focus their energies on analysis and synthesis instead of the details of citation. Of course, not all of the citations will be perfect. These citation tools rely on the citation information in databases, and these can occasionally be flawed. Asking students to compare their bibliographies to the standard format is still needed. Making it easier for students to cite sources, however, builds good research habits over the long term.

For more information on harnessing the collaborative features of citation managers for yourself or for a class, contact Amanda Izenstark at [amanda@mail.uri.edu](mailto:amanda@mail.uri.edu).

### By the Numbers

In Fall 2012...

1,796 URI 101 students learned about the Robert L. Carothers Library and Learning Commons' service points and where to get research help.

512 WRT 104 and 106 students came to the library for an introduction to finding articles.

1,351 students in 53 additional classes attended library instruction sessions targeted to the information research needs of their classes.

## Related Updates

### Coming Soon: Spring 2013 Database Trials

We want to hear from you about databases to support your - and your students' - work. Each Spring, the University Libraries get trial access to databases, and your feedback is important to our decision process. A link to a list of trial databases will be posted on the [Libraries' home page](#) in February. Please check out the databases and send your feedback about it to your [subject selector](#).

## Information Research Instruction Assessment Initiatives

Librarians teaching information research sessions are piloting a few new techniques to assess the sessions they lead. You may receive a few additional questions from your subject librarian about the content of the session, and librarians may be incorporating short surveys to better understand what students have learned. For further information about these efforts, please contact Mary MacDonald at [marymac@uri.edu](mailto:marymac@uri.edu).

*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.

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