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Instruction @ the URI Libraries - August 2013

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Instruction @ the URI Libraries



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Helping Digital Natives Avoid the Pitfalls of Plagiarism

Tips and tools for supporting students' ethical use of information

Are you tangling with how to prevent plagiarism in your students' assignments? Wish there was a quick-fix? URI faculty are concerned about plagiarism and often share their concerns that students are not strong in areas that prevent plagiarism, particularly citation skills. Scaffolding the learning for plagiarism is everyone's business. We know that no one instructor, course, or department can cure the challenges of plagiarism – but here are some simple direct suggestions that may help. Please consider adding these ideas and tools to your Sakai course or assignments.

Each year, the Provost's Office provides boilerplate language that can be included in syllabi, and the text is posted on [their web site](#). Instructors can refer students to several online library resources as well. The University Libraries own up-to-date copies of the most popular citation style manuals, and we provide a citation manager, [RefWorks](#). As part of the InfoRhode series of tutorials we provide two short online video tutorials, "[Why Cite](#)" and "[How Do I Cite My Sources?](#)" Finally, there is a quick reference guide for students on how to cite basic sources in MLA and APA format on the library's [Getting Started@the Libraries Guide](#) – look for the gold tab labeled Citing Correctly.

Keep in mind that the guidance students receive in high school is often based on free and frequently unreliable web tools that do not meet college-level requirements. Sharing your citation process and standards is helpful for students establishing new research habits.

John Palfrey, Co-Director of the Berkman Center for Internet & Society, and Professor of Law, and Vice Dean of Library and Information Resources at Harvard Law School, reminds us that "... the term 'digital natives' can be misleading. It's not the case that that all kids are born with an intuition for how to use these tools and how to sort through online information. Kids struggle, just as adults do, to learn these things. Parents, teachers, librarians, friends and many other adults need to play a role in scaffolding a learning environment for all young people..." (Project Information Literacy, 2010) Providing tips and tools, and integrating them into our course materials can go a long way to helping students avoid plagiarism.

References

Project Information Literacy. (2010, Sep. 1). John Palfrey: Rethinking plagiarism in the digital age? Smart Talks, 3. <http://projectinfo.org/st/palfrey.asp>

Embed Research Help in Your Syllabus

Students often don't realize that research help is just a phone call or a few clicks away, but the University Libraries provide help by phone and live online chat in addition to in-person services. There are a few ways you can help your students connect with their librarians.

One way is to include a simple statement in your syllabus that encourages them to seek library assistance when locating information for papers and projects. Sample text to include might be:

Get help @ the Libraries!

You can get personalized research help, find articles and books, and more, just by stopping by the URI Libraries, calling 401-874-2653, heading to the web site at <http://www.uri.edu/library/>, or using the URI Library link in Sakai.

Once students stop at those links, they can connect with our various service points, and get the help they need. For questions about the research support we offer students outside of classroom sessions, contact the [Info & Research Help Desk](#) at 401-874-2653.

By the Numbers

345 Talent Development students learned the basics of using the HELIN Catalog and finding articles in Library orientation sessions during their first week on campus in June.

68 students took LIB 120 Introduction to Information Literacy this summer, which was offered in three face-to-face sections and one online section.

7,387 students attended a library instruction session from September 2012 to July 2013.

Related Updates

RefWorks Flow Coming Soon!

RefWorks is updating its interface and functionality to include features such as annotating and synchronizing article PDFs across your devices, improved reference saving, and more collaboration tools. For more details, go to <http://flow.proquest.com> or contact Amanda Izenstark at 401-874-4582 or amanda@mail.uri.edu.

URI Libraries "Quick How-To" Videos

The URI Libraries are creating a short series of videos to help you and your students research more effectively and find what you're looking for faster. Topics include ["Connecting Google Scholar to the URI Libraries"](#) and ["Setting Up Email Alerts for New Articles."](#) These videos and more are available via the [Libraries' YouTube channel](#). If you have a topic you'd like to suggest for a "Quick How-To" video, please email 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.

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