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## Instruction @ the URI Libraries - January 2016

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# Instruction @ the URI Libraries



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## Information Literacy Defined and Practiced Tips for Assignments (and General Education Proposals!)

If your class includes assignments, papers, or projects that require students to find information from websites, articles, books, or other sources, adding in opportunities for students to develop and practice information literacy skills is easy.

### Information Literacy Defined

In 2015, the Association of College and Research Libraries updated its definition of Information literacy:

*Information literacy is the set of integrated abilities encompassing the reflective discovery of information, the understanding of how information is produced and valued, and the use of information in creating new knowledge and participating ethically in communities of learning.*

— Association of College and Research Libraries, <http://www.ala.org/acrl/standards/ilframework>. 2015.

### Information Literacy Practiced

The information literacy skills outlined in the new General Education Information Literacy Outcome rubric require that students be able to know and do the following:

- determine how much information is needed to address a specific research question,
- determine relevant key concepts in order to search for appropriate information,
- design an effective information search strategy to find relevant information,
- organize and communicate information from multiple sources in order to achieve a specific purpose with clarity and depth, and
- use information ethically and legally.

The [Information Literacy Toolkit](#) provides tips and ideas for exercises and assignments. For one-on-one consultations, please contact your liaison librarian or Professor Mary MacDonald, Head of Instruction, at [marymac@uri.edu](mailto:marymac@uri.edu) or 401.874.4635.

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## Google, Wikipedia, and College Student Research

Google is the first stop for many researchers, followed by Wikipedia. But Google results can be skewed and are often geared toward the general public rather than student researchers. At the same time, although students know Wikipedia isn't a reliable source for information, they frequently consider the cherry-picked references a good substitute for using broader and more scholarly research tools such as databases. Learn more about how search results are skewed in [Eli Pariser's TED talk, "Beware Online Filter Bubbles."](#)

## Big Changes to the URI Libraries Search

You may have noticed that the URI Libraries Search is now offering a single search box and searches for materials outside the URI Libraries. This offers researchers greater options for locating articles as well as finding books available through other libraries.

If you want to limit your search to a particular library, specific formats (for example, books, articles, etc.), topic, or date, just click on the limiter facets on the left.

Should you want to go directly to the databases for precision searching, you can still access them all through the “Find Articles” link on the right side of the University Libraries’ homepage.

For full functionality - including saving items to your eShelf, requesting items, creating alerts, and more - remember to sign in before searching.

If you have any questions or need assistance with the URI Libraries Search, please contact the [Info & Research Help Desk](#) at the Carothers Library, or stop by the CCE or Pell libraries. We can help you and your students in person, by phone, via live chat, or email!

### By the Numbers

In Fall 2015...

2,052 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.

1,122 WRT 104 and 106 students came to the library for an introduction to finding articles.

507 EGR 105 students attended a lecture & attended a lab to learn to use engineering reference databases to identify citations to appropriate articles.

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## Related Updates

### RefWorks Redesign

Great news for users of RefWorks and ProQuest Flow! RefWorks is rolling out a redesign of RefWorks that incorporates the best of these two products. You’ll see enhanced drag-and-drop functionality for citing PDFs, a nicer user interface, and additional features. If you’re interested in an account, [sign up using the RefWorks link on our database page](#).

### Spring 2016 Search Savvy Seminars

This spring’s Search Savvy Seminars will include sessions on RefWorks, web search tools that go beyond Google, finding streaming videos, and more! A full schedule will be posted to the Libraries’ website, the URI events calendar, and our social media pages. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Google+](#) for updates!

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*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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