

2014

Instruction @ the URI Libraries - May 2014

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Recommended Citation

MacDonald, Mary C. and Izenstark, Amanda, "Instruction @ the URI Libraries - May 2014" (2014). *Instruction @ the URI Libraries*. Paper 11.

<http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/instructionnews/11>

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Instruction @ the URI Libraries



May 2014 • Issue 11

Library Resources for Graduate Students

Needs vary based on prior information research experience

Library instruction services for graduate students are sometimes overlooked when developing orientation programs and supports for their more advanced information research needs.

Some faculty may assume that grad students are already advanced information researchers, however, this is not always the case. Graduate students enroll in programs of study at various points in their lives; some enroll directly after undergraduate graduation, and many come back to their studies after some time away. For others, being a graduate student was not a goal until a career change - or the discovery of a new passion - has occurred.

Even those grad students who have come to URI right after their undergraduate work is completed may feel daunted by learning about a new library, a new consortium, and new databases at the same time that they are learning the ins and outs of more advanced research in their field. Alternately, graduate school could represent a change of discipline, so previously honed skills may need adjusting.

The University Libraries support the instructional needs of graduate students by providing both online tools and face-to-face instruction opportunities. This means we can work with students in traditional

classes on-campus, or with students researching from off-campus sites.

If your department or program enrolls graduate students we encourage you to contact your library liaison about planning a research orientation session for newly enrolled students. Let graduate students know that they can visit the Info & Research Help desk, or make an appointment with a library liaison for their subject area. You may also wish to share information about the Libraries' Search Savvy Seminar series, which highlights research tips and tricks that may not be covered by other information research sessions.

Library FAQs for Grads

<http://uri.libguides.com/grad>

This guide provides links to information that supports graduate students' individual research needs. We also provide information for graduate students who will be teaching. Topics include:

- Using the Library
- Article Databases
- Getting Material from Other Libraries
- Help for Teaching Assistants: Scheduling Instruction Classes, Creating Effective Library Assignments, and InfoRhode Tutorials

Support for Online Students

Many URI students take classes online during the summer, and they're often joined by students from other schools looking to get credits at a possibly lower rate. But your students don't have to feel cut off from library resources even though they're not on campus.

In addition to searching our catalog and databases online, students can get online live research help from the Info & Research Help Desk during the hours the desk is open. We have live chat help boxes embedded in many of our research guides and in many frequently used databases such as Academic Search Complete, ABI/INFORM Global, PsycINFO, and more. If we're closed, we can be reached via email at urilibrarian@gmail.com.

We hear from students looking for articles for class assignments as well as those at internships and practicums who need reliable, scholarly information to support their work. Encourage your students to stop by our virtual service desk. We're open 9 am - 8 pm Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday; 9 am - 7 pm Wednesdays; 9 am - 5 pm Fridays; and 1 pm - 8 pm on Sundays. The University Libraries are closed on Saturdays during the summer.

By the Numbers

In Spring 2014...

161 LIB 120 and LIB 220 students learned to conduct college level information research through the exploration and practice of information literacy concepts and skills.

1,173 WRT 104 and 106 students came to the library for an introduction to finding articles.

805 students in 43 additional classes from 14 academic departments attended sessions targeted to the information research needs of their classes.

Related Updates

Possible Changes Coming to the HELIN Library Catalog

This spring, librarians from across the HELIN Consortium evaluated a new version of the catalog which may be implemented in July 2014. If so, there will be some changes in finding online journals. (Finding articles will remain the same.) Watch the Faculty Library Announcements mailing list and the Libraries' website for updates.

Search Savvy Seminars - Please Give Us Your Feedback and Share Ideas!

During the 2013-2014 academic year, the University Libraries hosted the Search Savvy Seminar series. Topics included information on citation managers, advanced searching in Google, Altmetrics, and more. As we plan for next year's round, please let us know what you want to see again, what you want to learn about in the future, and what times and formats would work best for you via our short survey at <http://goo.gl/MnjTuw> by June 30.

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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