

8-2014

Instruction @ the URI Libraries - August 2014

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Recommended Citation

MacDonald, Mary C. and Izenstark, Amanda, "Instruction @ the URI Libraries - August 2014" (2014).
Instruction @ the URI Libraries. Paper 12.

<https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/instructionnews/12><https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/instructionnews/12>

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Instruction @ the URI Libraries



Aug 2014 • Issue 12

A Student's Salvation: The Info & Research Help Desk!

What happens at the Info & Research Help Desk when students ask for help?

Preparing to do research is part of every instructor's basic tool kit; we actually enjoy doing research! However, many students find that navigating the research process becomes a maze of anxiety and confusion. Barbara Fister, in her article "Fear of Reference," writes that students feel that they ought to already know how to use an academic library and they are embarrassed or even humiliated to ask for help in public (Fister, 2002).

A key point in the University Libraries' [Information Literacy Mission Statement](#) is "to make every interaction at the library, especially reference questions, a learning opportunity for users." Thus, we treat each reference interaction as an instructional moment, a one-to-one teaching moment, be it a face-to-face visit, a phone call, a live chat session, text message, or overnight email.

Reference librarians are here to assist library users in finding and evaluating information. We're here to help with any of the "where is...?" and "how do I?" questions about finding things and doing research in the library.

Consider recommending that students contact the Info & Research Help Desk at the Carothers Library, as well as the Reference Desks of the CCE Library and the Pell Marine Science Library, for guidance

and advice on how to begin their search for information. Encourage your students to bring the assignment they are working on with them, and help them prepare for visiting the librarian by sharing the questions listed below that librarians are likely to ask of them in order to get the conversation started.

Here are some of the questions the librarian may ask your students:

"What are you researching?"
"What class is the research for?"
"What type of information are you hoping to find?"
"What have you done so far?"
"How much information do you need?"
"What kinds of information do you need or want to use?"

References

Fister, B. (2002). Fear of Reference. *Chronicle Of Higher Education*, 48(40), B20. <http://chronicle.com/article/Fear-of-Reference/2928>

University Libraries, University of Rhode Island. (2014). Reference and Research Help. Retrieved from: <http://web.uri.edu/library/reference-research->

InfoRhode Tutorials: New Look and New Location

University Libraries' InfoRhode information literacy tutorials have a new look and new YouTube addresses.

The InfoRhode Tutorials explore the basics of college-level research in thirteen short videos that can be used to support students' information gathering needs. With such titles as, "Why Can't I Just Search Google?," "How Do I Choose the Best Databases for my Research?," "Why Cite?," and "Scholarly vs. Popular Sources," the videos can be used in lessons, assignments, and as point-of-need supplements to course materials.

The video series can still be accessed from the Libraries' homepage, but the individual videos on YouTube now have new links. If you have linked to an InfoRhode video in any of your course materials and need to change the links, you can find all the new videos at the same library address - <http://web.uri.edu/library/inforhode-tutorials/>.

Associate Professor Jim Kinnie, jkinnie@uri.edu

By the Numbers

330 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.

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

7,915 students attended a library instruction session from September 2013 to July 2014.

Related Updates

URI Libraries Adopting EZproxy for Database Authentication

This summer, the URI Libraries are making the transition to a new proxy server. The new proxy server is called EZproxy, and it uses your e-Campus user name and URI email/Sakai/wireless password for authentication. You will still need the library barcode on your URI ID to request books and interlibrary loan items, and to check out library materials. For more information, see our guide at <http://uri.libguides.com/ezproxy>, and please contact the Info & Research Help Desk if you have questions.

Search Savvy Seminars for 2014-2015 Coming Soon!

Many thanks to those of you who provided feedback regarding the Search Savvy Seminars. As a result of your comments and suggestions, we are scheduling the sessions for 10 am Wednesday mornings and 3 pm Thursday afternoons. Topics coming up this year include the RefWorks citation management tool, Open Access publishing, finding full text, Fair Use, and more. See <http://web.uri.edu/library/2014/08/18/fall-2014-search-savvy-seminar-series/> for dates and 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.

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