



McKillop Library

Research Skills and Information Literacy Instruction

McKillop Library | Salve Regina University
100 Ochre Point Avenue | Newport, RI 02840
Phone: (401) 341-2330
URL: <http://library.salve.edu>

Librarians are available to provide research skills and information literacy instruction for all classes.

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. Concepts include:

Research as inquiry: Research is iterative and depends upon asking increasingly complex or new questions whose answers in turn develop additional questions or lines of inquiry in any field.

Scholarship as conversation: Communities of scholars, researchers, or professionals engage in sustained discourse with new insights and discoveries occurring over time as a result of varied perspectives and interpretations.

Searching as strategic exploration: Searching for information is often nonlinear and iterative, requiring the evaluation of a range of information sources and the mental flexibility to pursue alternate avenues as new understanding develops.

Authority is constructed and contextual: Information resources reflect their creators' expertise and credibility, and are evaluated based on the information need and the context in which the information will be used. Authority is constructed in that various communities may recognize different types of authority.

Information creation as a process: Information in any format is produced to convey a message and is shared via a selected delivery method. The iterative processes of researching, creating, revising, and disseminating information vary, and the resulting product reflects these differences.

Information has value: Information possesses several dimensions of value, including as a commodity, as a means of education, as a means to influence, and as a means of negotiating and understanding the world. Legal and socioeconomic interests influence information production and dissemination.

-From the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education

Models of Instruction

A one-time class visit: Customized research instruction designed to meet the requirements of your research assignment. Research on student success shows that one-time visits work best when timed to when students are about to start research on a specific assignment.

Drop-in sessions with individual student follow-up: A librarian makes a quick visit to inform your class of research services available and to invite students to make a later appointment for research assistance.

Workshops: When students are settled into their research topics, a librarian comes in to provide an introduction to research tools relevant to the subject matter, and circulates to answer individual questions as they work at their own pace.

Embedded librarian: A librarian provides targeted instruction one or more times throughout the class and develops a relationship with students over the semester. Faculty can refer students to the librarian for consultations throughout the research and writing process.

Librarian online: A librarian meets with students and then creates a research guide targeted to a class assignment or topic which can be embedded into the Canvas course shell. If desired, the librarian can enter a discussion or bulletin board to answer research and related questions.

Online videos: Librarians can create customized brief video tutorials demonstrating a particular research skill.

Contact Us

Contact your subject liaison (on the library website at <http://library.salve.edu/faculty/liaison.html>), use our online request form to request a class at <http://library.salve.edu/class-request.html>, or call 401-341-2289.

Basic Skills

These sessions are designed for the library beginner. They are appropriate for any introductory class.

Navigating the Library

This session provides a physical tour of the library and an overview of library services. Students will learn about the variety of materials available to them and where they are located.

Getting Started with Reference Materials & Topic Development

Often the greatest struggle for students is choosing and fully forming a topic for a research paper or project. This session introduces students to using reference sources to explore and define a topic.

Books and Beyond: Using the Library Catalog for Books/E-books

Locating a book sounds like an easy task, but using the library catalog and the Library of Congress Classification System can be barriers to students unfamiliar with academic libraries. This session will cover the library catalog, Library of Congress call numbers, and locating a book on the shelf. Students will learn the value of e-books, which include full-text searches, enabling them to find and interact with high-quality research at home in their pajamas.

Finding Articles: Database Searching 101

Students will be introduced to databases and shown how to choose the right database for their information needs. Students will identify the difference between scholarly and popular materials and learn to develop search strategies through selecting and combining keywords.

Anti-Plagiarism and Citation Basics (MLA, APA or Turabian)

This session will introduce students to when and how to use a source appropriately. Students will learn what a citation is and how to read one, and review paraphrasing, quoting and summarizing. Students learn the basics of the citation style required in your course, including in-text citations and how to cite books, articles and websites.

Intermediate Skills

These sessions are appropriate for introductory to intermediate classes where students are required to research and write a short paper using a variety of references.

Researching the Argumentative Essay

When creating an argument around a controversial topic it is critical for students to understand the different viewpoints on the topic. This session addresses how to identify biased sources and how to select suitable keywords in order to find useful information.

Google Like a Ninja

Google is a powerful tool, but with great power comes great responsibility. In this class, students will learn how to refine their Google search by using Google's advanced search tools to create effective searches so that they do not waste time sorting through 100,000 irrelevant results. Based on class needs, librarians can cover Google Search, Google Scholar, Google Books, and Google News.

Scholarly, Trade, and Popular Sources

This session demonstrates how to identify the material type that is appropriate for the type of research being conducted. Topics include the idea of peer-reviewed refereed journals, the uses of and differences between scholarly, trade, and popular sources, and the uses of and differences between primary and secondary information.

Strategies for Evaluating Information

Students will develop strategies to distinguish between vetted information sources and sources of dubious quality. Students will evaluate websites, social media and online news sources based on authority, objectivity, quality, currency and relevance.

Advanced Database Searching

The use of subject terminology, Boolean logic, truncation and the thesaurus function are introduced. The session can be tailored to specific databases appropriate for the subject of the class.

Identifying Primary Source Research Articles Students are often unclear about what is meant by a primary source research article. This session will help students clearly understand how to identify and dissect a primary source research article.

Conducting a Literature Review

This session will provide students with the tools to collect and analyze the full body of scholarly literature on a single topic.

Managing Citations with RefWorks

Refworks is a bibliographic citation manager that allows users to collect, organize, and automatically format citations for their bibliography in APA or MLA Style.

Using Social Media Sources

Social media sources such as blogs, Facebook and Twitter can be fascinating sources of current primary source research materials. Students will learn how to locate and evaluate social media sources.

Discipline-specific Research Skills

Instruction in discipline-specific research skills is available for all majors. Examples of selected specific topics are listed below. Librarians are glad to customize sessions to meet the requirements of your assignment or research topic.

Research in Administration of Justice

Library Liaison: Dawn Emsellem; contact dawn.emsellem@salve.edu

Depending on the needs of the course, topics may include:

- Legal resources including use of the legal databases LEXIS/NEXIS Academic Universe, WESTLAW, and Hein Online
- Journal articles on ADJ topics in databases such as Sage Premier or EBSCO Academic Search Complete
- Importance of law review articles and where to find them

Research in Art and Art History

Library Liaison: Nicole Marino; contact nicole.marino@salve.edu

Depending on the requirements of the course, topics may include:

- Locating high quality images of art, architecture, crafts and textiles
- Utilizing ArtStor's tools to view, present and manage images

Research in Business

Library Liaison: Dawn Emsellem; contact dawn.emsellem@salve.edu

Depending on the requirements of the course, topics may include:

- Company information in databases including LEXIS/NEXIS and Hoover's
- Industry information in First Research
- Economics in EconLit
- Scholarly journal articles in EBSCO Business Source Premier
- Trade publications in LEXIS/NEXIS Academic Universe
- Data research via databases University Reporter, Polling the Nations, and Statista
- Country information in the databases Going Global and Mango Languages

Research in Education

Library Liaison for Education: Alicia Vaandering; contact alicia.vaandering@salve.edu

Depending on the needs of the course, topics may include:

- Introductory tour of the Curriculum Resource Center
- Juvenile fiction and literature searches
- General education research tools
- Journal articles on education topics in databases such as Education Full Text and ERIC

Research in English

Library Liaison: Kristin (Kiki) Butler; contact kristin.butler@salve.edu

Depending on the needs of the course, topics may include:

- Finding books and articles about authors
- Literary criticism
- Searching Gale Literary Sources and other relevant databases

Research in History

Library Liaison for History: Alicia Vaandering; contact alicia.vaandering@salve.edu

Depending on the needs of the course, topics may include:

- Finding primary and secondary sources in library databases such as America's Historical Newspapers, America: History & Life, and Historical Abstracts
- Digital collections and archives
- Digital scholarship, in collaboration with our Digital Scholarship and Instruction Librarian

Research in Modern Languages

Library Liaison: Gretchen Sotomayor; contact gretchen.sotomayor@salve.edu

Depending on course assignments, topics may include:

- Other cultures through the library's reference resources
- Other cultures using books and articles in databases such as EBSCO's Academic Search Complete, JSTOR
- Other cultures through primary sources such as news, memoirs, and magazines
- Literary criticism and author biographies
- Foreign language news sources in Lexis-Nexis and Google News

Research in Nursing

Library Liaison: Lisa Richter; contact lisa.richter@salve.edu

Depending on the needs of the course, topics may include:

- Finding articles in CINAHL, Ovid, PubMed Central and Science Direct
- Evaluating scholarly research articles on nursing and medical topics

Research in Political Science

Library Liaison: Gretchen Sotomayor; contact gretchen.sotomayor@salve.edu

Depending on course assignments, topics may include:

- Charting the progress of legislation through Congress
- Efficient use of online government resources
- Finding an overview of political topics using CQ Researcher
- Effective research using scholarly journal articles in EBSCO databases, Sage Journals Online, and Hein Online
- Finding primary resources in political science through the library's catalogs, databases, and local archives
- Searching for news sources in Lexis Nexis, New York Times Historical Access, and Google News

Research in Psychology

Library Liaison: Gretchen Sotomayor; contact gretchen.sotomayor@salve.edu

Depending on the needs of the course, topics may include:

- Using PsycINFO to locate primary source research articles and scholarly articles on psychology topics

Research in Religious and Theological Studies

Library Liaison: Gretchen Sotomayor; contact gretchen.sotomayor@salve.edu

Depending on the needs of the course, topics may include:

- Research skills and terminology appropriate for the discipline, using our new database ATLA Religion
- Thematic topics may include the seven deadly sins, Biblical commentary, Apocrypha, Satan, as well as interdisciplinary topics such as religious views on medical ethics or war

Research in the Sciences

Library Liaison: Lisa Richter; contact lisa.richter@salve.edu

Depending on the needs of the course, topics may include:

- Finding primary source research articles and scholarly articles in Science Direct and SciFinder
- A review of the primary literature in the field

Special Collections and Digital Scholarship

Instruction in special collections and digital scholarship is available for all majors.

Examples of selected specific topics are listed below. Librarians are glad to customize sessions to meet the requirements of your assignment or research topic.

Finding & Using Primary Sources

Archivist & Special Collections Librarian: Genna Duplisea, contact genna.duplisea@salve.edu

Researching primary sources and visiting an archives to use rare and unique materials is a different experience from visiting a library. In this session, the archivist will explain how to do the following:

- Approach and get the most out of communications with archives staff and research visits to the archives
- Find primary sources in other repositories
- Read and get the most information out of a finding aid
- Contextualize and understand primary source materials

Digital Scholarship

Digital Scholarship and Instruction Librarian: Nicole Marino, contact nicole.marino@salve.edu

Depending on the needs of the course, topics may include:

- Introduction to digital humanities with “tool parade”: what is digital humanities and how are people engaging with it?
- Specific digital tool workshop (requires prior faculty consultation)

Other Skills for Lifelong Learners

Research skills are essential for life outside of college. Students will learn to navigate the complex information ecosystem they will encounter outside of Salve and gain skills they need to be informed and responsible citizens.

Medical Research for the Layperson

Someone you love has just received a diagnosis you need to understand. How do you find accurate introductory information? How do you delve deeper and investigate potential treatments and options?

Gathering Accurate Information in Crisis Situations

How do you use social media sources effectively during a crisis? How can you develop an accurate picture of a developing situation using multiple web sources so you can make decisions?

Personal Archiving

How do you get your digital life in order? This workshop will cover tools and methods for organizing your digital media.

Library Research after Salve

How will you find reliable information after you’ve graduated and don’t have online access to McKillop Library? This workshop shows you the types of resources you can find after leaving Salve.

Library Instruction Liaisons

Barile, Lori

Systems & Technology Librarian

Holistic Counseling, Holistic Leadership, Creative/Expressive Arts, Theatre & Dance, Rehabilitation Counseling

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Butler, Kristin (Kiki)

Special Programs Librarian

English & English Communications, Social Work, Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies

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Duplisea, Genna

Archivist & Special Collections Librarian

Cultural & Historic Preservation

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Emsellem-Wichowski, Dawn

Director of Library Services

Administration of Justice, Business Studies, Health Care Administration
International Relations PhD, Humanities PhD

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Marino, Nicole

Digital Scholarship and Instruction Librarian

Art/Art History, Anthropology/Sociology, International Relations PhD,
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Richter, Lisa

Associate Director, Library Public Services

Nursing, Biology and Biomedical Sciences, Chemistry/Physics,
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Sotomayor, Gretchen

Research, Instruction, and Archives Specialist

Psychology, Political Science, Global Studies, Modern and Classical
Languages, Music, Philosophy, Religious & Theological Studies

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Vaandering, Alicia

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