

Undergraduate Upper-Level Writing and Research Methods Classes

The main aims of upper undergraduate library sessions are to help students:

- identify key information sources in their field of study
- develop proficient search strategies and techniques to address a research need
- develop evaluative, reflective and ethical research habits

The following list is designed to assist you in customizing the library instruction for your class in the time you have available. This is not an exhaustive list; if you would like other resources or topics addressed, we would be happy to discuss these options with you.

Times are variable for each topic on this list. Generally a 50- minute session allows time to cover five (5) of these topics. If you would like to choose more you may need to schedule a second class for your students to come to the library. Please discuss these options and your needs with the librarian who will be working with your class to ensure the session will be tailored to your unique needs.

1. Identifying the type(s) of information needed (e.g. research-based, peer-reviewed, government reports etc).
2. Using WMU Libraries' Web pages to identify appropriate information sources by subject, format etc.
3. Developing a realistic timeline of component tasks to complete the research and writing assignment.
4. Using advanced search strategies and techniques in an appropriate scholarly online database.
5. Evaluating the relevance of retrieved citations and modifying searches accordingly
6. Using citation indexes to identify heavily cited sources and authors, and to find sources that cite particular items
7. Accessing the full text of articles using Find it @ WMU (including interlibrary loan).
8. Evaluating Web sources for authority, currency, accuracy, etc.
9. Evaluating and working with retrieved information (extract and record pertinent material)
10. Creating an annotated bibliography to summarize main ideas
11. Understanding plagiarism and when and how to cite sources
12. Finding images
13. Using archives and special collections
14. Finding government information
15. Finding audiovisual materials
16. Organizing and managing information using RefWorks citation management software
17. Creating bibliographies using RefWorks citation management software*
18. Citing and formatting sources within the text of a paper with the Refworks Write-N-Cite application*

* These topics also require selection of 'Organizing and managing information using RefWorks