Why A Menu?!?

This menu shows content that can be included in a library instruction session (in your classroom or ours).

A single library instruction class will usually take 40 to 50 minutes. However, this type of session may not be appropriate for all classes.

This is where the Library Instruction Menu can help. This is a list of our most popular topics and the estimated time for each. This is not an exhaustive list, however, and if you would like other resources or topics covered we'd be happy to discuss options with you.

Our Research Instruction Philosophy

Regardless of the type of the instruction, we always make it:

Contextual: We relate our teaching to the subject matter and assignments of the specific course. We avoid general "how to use the library" sessions.

Interactive: We avoid a total lecture format, and create a learning experience that actively involves the students, the professor, and the librarian.

Practical: Part of the class period is devoted to students working on their assignment, and receiving individual help from the librarian and their professor.

For more information, see the research instruction tab on the faculty guide at libraryguides.goucher.edu/faculty

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The Basics

*WorldCat Discovery. An introduction to our new search tool to enhance the discovery step of the research process. Just the basics on using and getting the most out of this new tool…30 minutes

*The Goucher Catalog. Yes, we have actual books. Some are paper, some are electronic, many are very useful. Learn how to find them. …20 minutes

*Scholarly vs. Popular Journals. Learn how to determine if a resource will meet your [faculty] criteria for types of sources, using database tools and, hopefully, common sense. …..10 minutes

*Brainstorming Search Terms. Demonstrating different approaches to turning students’ research question into productive search terms. …..15 minutes

*Truncation. Using asterisks and/or exclamation points to vary the ending on your search terms……5 minutes

*Making the Most of the People Who Are Here to Help. Empowers students to effectively use help that library staff offers. Students will gain an understanding of how to prepare for a research consultation with a librarian, and how to find assistance in the library……10 minutes

*Interpreting an Assignment. We’ll identify some of the common terms (literature review, primary source, etc.) used in assignment descriptions and the clues they provide in helping students understand what is expected. …..5 minutes

The Library Does What??!!? A fun introduction to the library machine. A library is composed of many parts, most of which are never seen by our visitors. In this session participants receive a personalized tour that includes the inner sanctums of our world. See where items come in, how they are processed, learn about special collections and see the preservation techniques……50 minutes

*Evaluating Sources. Students will learn how to apply the CRAAP test to sources to determine whether their sources are reliable. …15 minutes

Refining Research Topics. Do searches on your topic produce too many results? Too few? Learn how to widen or narrow your search results and refine your research topic…10 minutes

Research Tools

Interlibrary Loan. You aren’t limited to things in our library. The universe of information is yours. Learn about the possibilities of getting books and articles from around the country……10 minutes

*Using RefWorks. An introduction to the New RefWorks for new users and/or migration from legacy RefWorks to the New RefWorks for more experienced users. Students will set up their own RefWorks account and create a class folder, as well as import sample references from 1-2 research databases and learn to generate a custom Works Cited. Especially good for higher-level classes that will be doing one major paper/project over the semester. …..20 minutes

Using PDFs. Tips and tricks for moving from finding resources to evaluating them. Using control-F to find specific terms within a document……5 minutes

eBooks. eBooks make up a greater percentage of library collections than ever before. Students will learn how to access these resources and take advantage of their unique attributes. The session could focus on one platform of the professor's choice, or give a brief overview of the major ones……20 minutes

Citation Mining. Found that one perfect article, but having trouble finding additional resources? Learn how to mine an article for references. Also discusses how to find articles that cite the one you're using. Particularly useful in combination with the Where is this Article? session. …..10 minutes

*Where is this Article? You’ve got the citation, but can you find out if our library has the actual text of the article? Yes, and it’s easier than you think. Particularly useful in combination with the Citation Mining session……10 minutes

A Novel Approach to Academic Reading. It may seem obvious, but we find that today's college students rarely think to look for the parts within a book or article that will help them use it more efficiently and strategically (e.g. table of contents, index, bibliography, date of publication, etc.). …..10 minutes

*Recommended for first-year students

*Recommended for upper-level courses

All About Sources

*A Database of Your Choice. Learn how to make the main database for your field cough up its treasures. (Includes bonus database.) …..20 minutes

*Finding Primary Sources. Find the experience behind the analysis. Includes online primary source databases, Goucher's own Special Collections, books on our shelves, primary sources hiding in secondary sources, and other local libraries……50 min

Finding Statistics. No doubt about it, finding statistics can be a grind. But there are several ways to make it easier. And when you succeed, the results can be fascinating……30 minutes

Literature Online/LION. Especially useful for budding English majors, provides hands-on experience in using the unique search features of one of the Library’s main English databases……15 minutes

Using Google Scholar. Google Scholar can be searched just as you would search regular Google, but simple keyword searches may be insufficient to find materials that fit the topic, thesis, or research question. This workshop will allow students to gain an understanding of how to use Google Scholar and how to access the full-text that Goucher has available through Google Scholar most effectively……30 minutes

Googling Effectively. There are a growing number of legitimate research guides, full-text collections, and other scholarly tools on the free Web worth exploring. The challenge, with hundreds of millions of indexed sites, is finding the right ones. This hands-on workshop will provide students with skills for using Google more effectively……30 minutes

Finding Images. Images can make a presentation or paper "pop", but finding just the right one can be difficult. Topics include image copyright, downloading and inserting images, search engines, and image search engines. …..30 minutes

Government Information. Especially useful for programs that deal with policy……30 minutes