

GIFT SESSIONS
SEPT. 10 and 11,
2008

Working with the Instruction Librarian

Course-specific research instruction for upper-level classes can be tailored to your course and customized for a specific course assignment.

- Familiarize yourself with library website
- Use discipline specific databases to find information on articles (full-text or citations) and books
 - Research by Topic pages
 - Databases page
- Find journal articles in full text via the library's online subscriptions
 - Journals @Dunn; 360 Link (NEW!)
- Use appropriate search strategies in online journal databases to gather resources on a given topic
 - Help screens; thesauri
- Use interlibrary loan to obtain research materials
 - From databases: 360 Link (NEW!)
 - Worldcat
- Differentiate between scholarly and popular resources
 - Web Evaluation site
(Research Resources>Evaluation Resources>Web Evaluation)
- Evaluate Websites for accuracy, authority, objectivity, and currency
 - Popular Magazines, Scholarly Journals and Trade Publications
(Research Resources>Evaluation Resources>Popular Magazines)
- Encourage students to visit with a librarian—individual appointments available

Tips for Effective Library Assignments (various sources)

- Give clear instructions in writing; students frequently misunderstand or forget an oral assignment.
- Library resources are continually changing and these changes will affect library assignments. Verify the accuracy of references given to students and make sure that the library owns the cited materials. Check your assignment regularly.
- Do the assignment yourself to see how long it takes before you decide how long students need to do it. Remember to allow for their inexperience in addition to the various locations of different materials.
- The reference librarians are glad to consult with you about designing successful library assignments. We will suggest appropriate library sources, compile course guides, and/or teach your class about research strategies and sources.

This handout is available with hotlinks at
About>Instructional Services>Working with the Instruction Librarian

Dunn Library: <http://www.simpson.edu/library/>
Library Information for Faculty: <http://www.simpson.edu/library/about/faculty.html>
Research by Topic—Faculty Development: <http://www.simpson.edu/library/research/facdevel.html>