Instructional Services

Instruction for Your Course

There are several types of instruction offered through the Library. There is the traditional one shot session, short sessions throughout the semester as needed, or a librarian can also come to your class and answer questions that students have.

For classes with less than 24 students, we invite you to come to the Library for instruction. In one of our instruction classrooms, students have the opportunity to work interactively with laptops that we provide.

We encourage you to attend the instruction sessions with your class.

Workshops

If you would like to suggest a workshop or plan one for your course outside of class time, please email us at library.ucmerced@gmail.com. Workshops are listed at News & Events.

Research Support Program (RSP)

The RSP provides a one-on-one research session with a librarian. This session is for 30-45 minutes and helps students learn how to do research for an assignment or on a specific topic. You can recommend or require students to sign up for this service. When requiring students to attend a session please email library.ucmerced@gmail.com with a copy of the assignment.

Assignment Review

The Library can offer assistance in the development of research assignments. We can review the assignment and make sure that the Library's collection supports the required exercise. Additionally, we can inform our staff in advance of the assignment so that they can best assist the students.

Library Instruction & the Writing Program

Library staff members have worked closely with the Writing Program to increase the information fluency of students. The Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) has published the **"Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education"** with standards, performance indicators, and outcomes. The teaching community shares many of these **outcomes** since information fluency is a valuable skill for academic life regardless of the discipline.

An individual with high information fluency is one who can

- determine how much information is required.
- access that information in an effective and efficient manner.
- evaluate the information critically.
- incorporate this information into existing knowledge.
- access and use information ethically. (ACRL, Information Literacy Competency Standards pgs. 2-3)

Listed are topics which have been taught as part of various library sessions and which relate to the ACRL standards:

- Distinguishing between popular and scholarly materials (1.2.e)
- Evaluating sources (3.2.a)
- Avoiding plagiarism (5.2.f)
- Using **Refworks** to manage research and create bibliographies (2.5.e)
- Finding a specific type of material e.g. blog entries, images, reference materials (2.3.a)
- Searching in a specific **database** (directed by the type of material needed), examples include Academic Search Complete, Newsbank: Access World News and the Literature Resource Center (2.2.e & 2.3.a)

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