University Libraries

Director
• John P. Culshaw

Web site: http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/instruction/


Library Research in Context is an activity-based course that helps students integrate information skills and concepts into their academic tool kit, enabling them to develop habits of critical inquiry and to accomplish course goals. Designed primarily for sophomores and juniors, the course introduces students to the basic research process and helps them formulate research questions and evaluate information. It also touches on the social and ethical contexts of information. Subject-specialist librarians present the course, using in-class activities and assignments and class discussion. Most sections of the course are offered online.

Library Strategies for International Research helps students prepare to write an academic research paper and succeed in upper-level courses throughout their academic careers. Students work with a research librarian, gaining new skills and experience as they solve information-related problems. The class features small group activities, short student presentations, and an individual research consultation with the instructor. Students develop familiarity with a variety of research and popular materials, become experts in at least one academic research database, and enhance their critical thinking skills. The course lasts eight weeks.

Being Responsible Online: From Facebook to Academic Research introduces students to ethical issues that surround online information, especially in the context of social media. Discussion topics include issues of privacy, security, free versus fee-based information, censorship, one’s digital footprint, and academic integrity.

Courses

Lower-Level Undergraduate

ULIB:1001 Library Research in Context 1 s.h.
Academic research, effective use of the library and its resources, basic research methods, process of scholarly communication; content may be keyed to a discipline-specific course; students apply concepts and processes to their research projects; transferable skills.

ULIB:2001 Being Responsible Online: From Facebook to Academic Research 1 s.h.
Introduction to ethical issues surrounding online information; using information as researchers or creating information on a social networking site; issues of privacy, reliability, and intellectual property; skills to navigate online information responsibly and knowledgeably.

Upper-Level Undergraduate and Graduate

ULIB:3011 Library Strategies for International Research 1 s.h.
Skill development in international research; academic projects; work with research librarian; activity-based introduction to article, statistical, and governmental databases; research and popular materials; information discovery process (tools and search strategies); enhancement of critical thinking skills. Same as IS:3011.