

Graduate Level Courses

The main aims of graduate library sessions are to help students:

- become evaluative, reflective, proficient and thorough researchers
- organize, manage, integrate and reference information effectively and ethically
- gain transferable research skills for life-long, real world problem solving

The following list is designed to assist you in customizing library instruction for your class, and to help you decide which topics you want addressed in the time available. This is not an exhaustive list; if you would like other resources or topics addressed, we are happy to discuss those options and work with you to shape the session to the particular needs of your class.

Times are variable for each topic on this list. Generally a 90- minute session allows time to cover eight (8) of these options. Please discuss your choices and your requirements with the librarian who will be working with your class to ensure the session is tailored appropriately.

1. Finding and obtaining dissertations (full text and print)
2. Using advanced search techniques and techniques in appropriate databases to focus in on relevant sources, and eliminate inessential works.
3. Focusing on scholarly, peer reviewed materials in electronic databases
4. Using the Journal Finder to search or browse through particular journal titles in your field.
5. Locating government sources (federal, state, and local)
6. Finding images
7. Locating primary sources in your field
8. Locating statistical sources
9. Finding legal materials and court cases
10. Patent searching
11. Locating standards relevant to your field
12. Searching the web for scholarly materials; evaluating the results of Web searches for accuracy and authoritativeness
13. Using Interlibrary Loan services to access materials not in the WMU collections
14. Searching for sources and organizing a literature review
15. Finding examples of a good literature review in your field
16. Using citation indexes to identify heavily cited sources and authors, and to find sources that cite particular items.
17. Keeping your literature review up to date by using automated “alerts” and listservs
18. Saving searches and search results in electronic indexes.
19. Compiling an annotated bibliography to summarize main ideas
20. Developing a realistic timeline of component tasks for completing your research project or paper
21. Understanding issues of academic integrity such as intellectual freedom; avoiding plagiarism.
22. Organizing and managing information using RefWorks citation management software
23. Creating bibliographies using RefWorks citation management software*
24. Citing and formatting sources as you write with the RefWorks Write-N-Cite application*

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