

Information Literacy Instruction for First Year Writing

Hugh Burkhart, Coordinator of Instruction and
Undergraduate Learning
Copley Library

Library Instruction for Undergrads

- 71% of library instruction for undergrads is by faculty request from subject specialists across the academic disciplines
- 15% occurs in sections of FYW 150
- 14% occurs in LLC or TLC linked courses (not including FYW 150 class that are also LLCs)
- Copley librarians typically reach more than 3700 undergrads in an academic year (approximately 65%).
- There is no required library orientation or required information literacy session with librarians for USD students.

Rationale for Reaching Students through FYW 150

- only course that is compulsory for nearly all first year undergrads
- highest number of sections of any undergrad course
- learning outcomes relate to information literacy skills:
 4. Use credible sources to develop ideas and arguments that are effective within assigned disciplines and courses.
 5. Cite sources accurately according to conventions of the topic and discipline.

How FYW 150 students benefit from library instruction

- Early introduction to the concept of subject librarians as well as library resources and services
- “Students who receive an orientation to library resources and services are more likely to seek needed research assistance with course papers, projects, and presentations” ([Goldman et. al., 2016](#)).
- Copley librarians frequently meet with students via chat, email, and at the research assistance desk following a library class session.
- Library instruction can reduce “library anxiety” and increase confidence in using library resources ([LeMire et. al., 2021](#)).

Library Session Learning Outcomes for FYW 150

This presentation is designed for students new to conducting research at the University of San Diego.

By the end of this session, students should be able to

- Distinguish between scholarly and non-scholarly sources
- Compose a keywords list based on a research topic
- Identify relevant resources available through Copley Library and use them to retrieve sources appropriate for a research project

Concepts Covered

- Scholarly versus non-scholarly sources
- Composing a keywords list
- Finding books
- Locating peer-reviewed articles
- Using library databases to find popular sources

Optional Library Session Assignment

Use this short assignment to compose keywords based on your topic and locate appropriate library resources and sources:

<https://tinyurl.com/ybwneay5>

Share your results with a partner and have that person use this rubric to evaluate the resources and books or articles you found:

<https://tinyurl.com/ybv999fc>

What we need from instructors

- Syllabus
- Any relevant assignments
- Instructor to be in attendance and engaged

Use this form to request a session:

<https://sandiego.libwizard.com/f/instruction>

Questions/assistance

Hugh Burkhart, Copley Library

hburkhart@sandiego.edu

(619) 260-2366

<https://libguides.sandiego.edu/FirstYearWriting>

<https://libguides.sandiego.edu/IL>