

Online Library Orientation

PPT Recording Transcript

Part 4

Welcome to Taylor Memorial Library's Online Orientation, Part Four

This Orientation is made up of five parts.

While it is possible to watch each part out of order as a stand-alone lesson, it is recommended that each part is completed consecutively.

In its entirety, this orientation will introduce you to Taylor Memorial Library's (or TML's) services and resources to help you understand and start using all the Library has to offer!

Part Four, this part, will introduce you to the library's Information Literacy and Instruction Program and how to get research and reference help at the Library.

At the end of this presentation, viewers should be able to:

- Define information literacy
- Describe what the Library's Instruction program is and does
- Reach out to Library Staff for research and reference help

Let's get started.

According to the American Library Association, Information literacy (or IL) is a set of abilities requiring individuals to "recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information."

In other words, Information literacy is a process of attaining knowledge by knowing how to search, find, and use. Remember that: Search. Find. Use. In the end, it is about incorporating information into your knowledge base, and using the information effectively and ethically in the world around you. This might be in the form of a research paper, but it also applies to how we use and share information online such as on Instagram, twitter or blogs.

Taylor Memorial Library's reference librarians teach students to become mindful consumers of information. Through foundational information literacy (IL) learning and personal attention throughout their academic career, students learn to seek quality answers to satisfy their intellectual curiosities.

The Library's Instruction Program supports the educational mission of Centenary University and its teaching faculty by providing students with the research and information literacy skills required to successfully navigate through course assignments. The program is designed to cultivate effective information seeking behaviors in students through quality in-person and virtual instructional opportunities that prepare students to be life-long learners.

The Program does this by adhering to several sets of guidelines and frameworks for teaching information literacy from The American Library Association (ALA) and The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL).

What we hope you learn through Library Information Literacy Instruction is that:

1. Authority Is Constructed and Contextual
2. Information Creation is a Process
3. Information Has Value
4. Research is Inquiry
5. Scholarship is Conversation
6. Searching is Strategic Exploration

We do this by teaching general use researching techniques and how to use online databases. Other concepts and skills heavily discussed include:

- Developing a Research Strategy, which is the process of choosing a topic, writing a research question, and brainstorming search terms.
- How to Read and understand the components of book and journal citations.
- Correctly Citing sources in APA and MLA style for books, journal articles, and websites.
- Avoiding Plagiarism and knowing when citations are required vs. not required.
- Knowing the differences between Popular and Scholarly or more academic Periodicals that are written by experts and peer-reviewed
- And
- Requesting Items from Other Libraries through interlibrary loan, which is also known as ILL.

If this all seems overwhelming, don't worry! It takes time to learn and the Library offers some great learning resources. The Library's Research Help Page, Research 101, is one such resource and can be accessed from the Library Homepage.

Specifically, it can help you with academic research and can be found at libguides.centenaryuniversity.edu/research101

It's important to realize that academic research goes beyond a simple Google search. It is a flexible, non-linear process that requires you to think critically and seek quality answers to your questions using a variety of tools.

Although research can sometimes be confusing and frustrating, it can also be very rewarding once the tools and methods become familiar. All it takes is a little bit of practice and patience!

Throughout the research process, you will need to **discover** sources of information, **interpret** meaning, **evaluate** for authority, **connect** ideas, and **infer** from evidence.

Sound familiar? That's Information Literacy.

Search. Find. Use.

All of these are concepts will be explored over time at Centenary through in-class visits from librarians, asking for help at the circulation desk, and one-on-one research appointments.

You can talk with a library staff member or book a one-on-one research appointment with a librarian by visiting the library website at libguides.centenaryuniversity.edu. I recommend bookmarking this page now if you haven't already done so!

While the homepage may undergo modifications and changes over time, it will always contain contact information and various suggestions for reaching out to a member of Library Staff.

1. You can email us at library@centenaryuniversity.edu. This email is monitored daily.
2. You can call us at 908 852 1400 x 2345. Calls will be answered only when the Library building is open.
3. You can ask a quick question by using the live online chat. Click on the speech bubble to launch the chat box.
4. You can fill out our Ask a Librarian! Form to ask a more in-depth question or request a one-on-one appointment with a Librarian. The library offers virtual appointments via both Teams and Zoom.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Congratulations, you have completed Part Four of TML's Online Orientation. Almost done!

Part Five, the final part, will introduce you to TML's social media platforms to help you stay up to date on everything going on at the Library!

See you again soon.