

Instruction Program

Thigpen Library, Volunteer State Community College

Statement of Principle

The ability to identify, select, critically evaluate, and ethically utilize relevant information are important skills. Library instruction is increasingly important in helping college students acquire these necessary skills which will enable them to cope with the exponential growth of information and to become independent, life-long learners.

To this end, information gathering and evaluation skills must be learned and developed within the context of academic course work. Library instruction coupled with academic course work will improve measurably students' academic studies, regardless of the discipline.

Statement of Purpose

Thigpen Library's Instruction Program exists to support the academic curriculum of Volunteer State Community College. The program serves the students, faculty, and staff of the College. The purpose of the program is to assist members of the college community with developing information-seeking abilities appropriate for their individual levels of scholarship and to support their research. As academic communities confront the information age, library instruction aims to be responsive to cultural, technological and curricular change within the college.

Our mission is to teach students the skills needed to successfully complete their library-related assignments, prepare them to apply critical thinking skills, and become independent library researchers.

Program Goals

Library instruction will support the academic mission of the College by:

- Providing quality library instruction in formats designed to meet both class and individual needs.
- Developing guides to assist students in the use of library materials
- Consulting with faculty in designing and incorporating library-related assignments in their curriculum.

Content of Instruction / Instructional Services

Our active Library Instruction Program includes the following instructional services

Face-to-Face Instruction is tailored to specific courses and research assignments. These sessions are designed to familiarize students with the resources available in their discipline, and to assist an entire class with the research process. Faculty can schedule instruction in our computer-equipped instructional facilities or they can request that librarians come to their classroom.

Online Learning Guides are designed to meet the learning needs of students anywhere at any time.

Librarian/Faculty Collaborations

- Designing or revising library research assignments to ensure that they are up-to-date and aligned with current library resources.
- Constructing course guides to meet the specific research needs of your students.
- Integrating instruction in research skills and other information literacy competencies into courses and programs
- Embedding a librarian into online / hybrid courses to offer virtual research office hours or to monitor research threads and questions on the discussion board.

Research paper consultations are designed specifically for individuals who would like to work one-on-one with a Librarian on a specific research topic.

Special Workshops are offered by the Library, such as how to search in specific databases or citation styles. Taught by librarians, these classes include “hands-on” practice with the library’s various databases. The classes are open to students, faculty, and staff.

Program Structure

The program is fluid, changing to meet patrons’ needs as technology modifies the way information is accessed, as curricular and administrative needs change, and as a result of program evaluation. Through the program the library facilitates access to the vast resources available to the college, fosters a sense of independence and responsibility, and encourages collaborative relationships between librarians and other teaching faculty.

The Library Instruction Program incorporates teaching strategies and methodologies that respond to individual differences in learning level, style, and culture. We do this in the context of the Information Literacy Competencies Standards of the Association of the College and Research Libraries.