

RESEARCH SUPPORT & INSTRUCTION: RESEARCH SKILLS INSTRUCTION



Research Support and Instruction (RS&I) has an active research skills instruction program that increases in popularity every year. Although the RS&I librarians plan which research skills should be introduced to students at different times in their college career, sessions are always responsive to the needs of a particular class, and to what a particular faculty member hopes that the students will achieve.

The RS&I team pays particular attention to groups of students and courses that are not embedded in departments. Senior thesis writers, Mellon–Mays students, CISLA students and Posse groups get special opportunities to work formally and informally with the librarians. Cooperative programming between the Academic Resource Center (ARC) and the instructional librarians is also developing. In addition, as revisions to the General Education program progress, the instructional librarians will actively engage with the curricular changes. For instance, they have been asked to participate in both the Freshman Year Seminars and the sophomore research seminars.

THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT RESEARCH INSTRUCTION:

- Each Freshman Year Seminar has an assigned research librarian. In a General Education pilot program last fall, FYS students were given extra time for research, writing, presentation and time management skills development.
- In 2012–2013, 2,174 students attended a research skills instruction session, most of which were course related. That was up 21 percent from the previous year.
- Indicating a linkage between instruction and research consultation, several professors over the past year have required that students not only attend research skills sessions but also sign up for an individual session with a research librarian.

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