

Module 1 - An Introduction & Finding Books

Goals: Introduce students to their library liaison, give students an overview of what library instruction will accomplish, introduce students to using the library catalog and finding books, and have students present a short list of books in a specific bibliographic format. Optionally, the students will write rudimentary annotations.

Outcomes:

- Students will use the library catalog in order to identify, locate, and retrieve three books relevant to their research topic.
- Students will write accurate citations for three books in a style specified by the professor in order to begin creating a bibliography.
- *Optional:* Students will answer three specific questions about each source in order to begin writing annotations that will help them learn to assess the relative value of each item.

Materials:

- Instruction room in the library with computers and printer.
- It is helpful if the students come to class with an idea of what their final research topic will be.
- Handout on writing citations.
- *Optional:* Handout on writing annotations for books.

Time Required: 30 minutes maximum/20 minutes minimum.

Lesson:

- 5 min.** { If this is the first library session, the librarian may want to give a brief introduction about what librarians do and why they are working with the class. College level research papers require a mix of sources, including books, newspaper and magazine/journal articles that require subscriptions, that cannot be accessed freely on the internet, but are available at Dickinson.
- 5 min.** { Demonstration of how to find books that Dickinson College owns on a relatively broad topic.
 - Explain how to read and understand the catalog screen.
 - Brief discussion on how books are shelved.
- 15 min.** { **Action:** Students will look up one book in the library on their own (different for each student). They should print or write down the citation and call number.
 - **Action:** Lead students around the library and ask them to retrieve the book they found and return it to the classroom.
- 5 min.** { **Discussion:** Librarian will talk about the assignment, particularly the requirement that the retrieved items be cited appropriately. Discuss the annotation if elected. *Handout on citing and annotating (optional) to be provided.*

Assignment: Students should check out the book they find during class. Additionally, students will find two other books (that they look up on their own). For *each* item (total of three), students should provide the following:

- Photocopy or scan the title page of each book.
- Provide a citation in correct format, based on the professor's preference.
- *Optional:* Answer the following questions: 1) Who is the author/What are his/her credentials? 2) What is the thesis of the book and what main points does the author address? 3) How could this book support a research paper?
- Write down *at least* one question or area of trouble encountered to be discussed in next class.