GETTING STARTED

Creating a research plan
Students will create a plan to identify their information need, map different sources to their research question, use recursive searching techniques, and develop strategies for logging and retrieving information.

Introduction to the library: Who, where, why?
Ideal for new and first-year students in undergraduate or graduate programs, these sessions provide an overview of the wide variety of services available at Dalhousie Libraries.

LIBRARY SKILLS: SEARCHING & DISCOVERY

Finding articles in databases
Students will learn how to construct search strategies and find articles within Dal Libraries’ subject-specific and multidisciplinary databases. Searching activities and recommended databases are tailored to specific projects and disciplines.

Finding & using books & ebooks
Students will learn how to find and access/borrow physical and electronic books in the Dalhousie Libraries’ collections.

Train the trainer sessions: Library instruction for TAs
TAs are natural support contacts for many students. Research sessions focused on TAs will help them understand how best to assist students with common research queries.

ADVANCED SKILLS & RESEARCH TOOLS

Finding the evidence for literature reviews
From casual to comprehensive searches, we deliver customized instruction on locating the research to address your review question. Highly recommended for anyone planning a systematic review or needing to ensure they have identified the relevant literature for any type of literature review.

Rare books
The 5th floor of the Killam Library is home to an impressive collection of rare books. We can provide presentations on these materials and discuss options for integrating them into your course content.

Archives
Students will be introduced to research methods for archival materials, archival finding aids, and accessing primary sources via hands-on interaction with the material and discussions of potential paper topics.

Finding data
Which data sources are available at the Dalhousie Libraries? We can provide an introduction to the various data resources owned by the Dalhousie Libraries, tailoring the instruction to your course assignments.

Best practices in research data management
This workshop will address the questions to consider when creating a Data Management Plan and tools for sharing your data at Dalhousie. Topics include metadata and annotation, file formats, organization, storage, backups, security and data sharing.

RefWorks
Students will learn how to use RefWorks online citation management software to store, organize, and share their research.

Using mobile apps
Did you know that you and your students have access to a broad variety of scholarly resources from mobile devices? During this session we will look at some mobile apps you may want to add to your toolkit.

ALL ABOUT SOURCES

Open Access
Students will recognize the financial forces driving the availability of information, and will learn how/where to find free scholarly alternatives and participate in the Open Access movement.

Evaluating web sources
Student will be able to assess resources for authority, accuracy, reliability, relevance, coverage, and timeliness, as well as identify possible biases within information sources.

Incorporating sources
Students will learn how to determine whether a source is relevant to their topic, and take steps toward smoothly integrating their research with their own ideas.

Primary & secondary sources
Students will be able to identify a breadth of primary and secondary sources of information in the field. Through exercises and discussion, students will learn how these different types of sources can be used together to explore a topic more fully.
Finding and appraising the evidence
This course reviews how to efficiently search for the best type of evidence for your purpose. We will also introduce the “why” of critical appraisal and provide links to resources that can be used in appraisal.

INFORMATION ETHICS

Plagiarism & academic honesty
Through exercises and discussion, students will understand the value of academic integrity and recognize the implications of plagiarism.

Citation
Students will learn the basics of in-text citation and referencing in their discipline’s designated style. Citation workshops work very well when combined with sessions on plagiarism.

Online privacy & professionalism
Through discussion and feedback, students will become familiar with some theoretical concepts of privacy, how privacy is affected in the online world, and to what extent privacy is still a relevant idea. Students will also learn tips and tricks for maintaining professionalism in their online presence.

Copyright & Open Access: Protect your rights as author
This workshop will cover copyright policies of publishers, how to read and understand publications agreements and how to preserve your rights as authors through Open Access and publication agreement addenda.

How to get help from us:

FACE TO FACE
1) Drop-in
Send your students (or bring yourself) to the service point at any of our 5 campus libraries. Reference hours: http://libraries.dal.ca/locations_services/services/reference_and_researchservices.html

2) Research consultations
Available for students and faculty. Visit http://util.library.dal.ca/Subspecialists/ to connect with the librarian for your subject area.

3) In-class instruction
Please contact your subject librarian.

ONLINE SERVICES:

1) Subject guides:
Subject guides pull together the best resources by field of study, pointing students in the right direction for their research. They also provide contact information for subject librarians and links to other services. Visit http://libraries.dal.ca/subject_guides.html for a complete list of guides.

2) Online help for your students:
Send your students to us virtually! Feel free to pass along the name of the subject librarian for your field and encourage students to get in touch. They can also use the Live Help chat service for more general library-related questions, available from the homepage: libraries.dal.ca

3) Online tutorials
We have created online tutorials to answer many basic research-related questions, as well as walkthroughs of some of the more popular databases. A full list is available at http://libraries.dal.ca/using_the_library/online_tutorials.html

4) Request a customized tutorial or research guide
If your students have a specific research need that you feel would benefit from an online tutorial or a dedicated course Research Guide, please contact your subject specialist.

5) Handouts
Handouts are created as needed and as requested. If you would like a handout created on a certain topic, please contact your subject specialist; handouts can be made available in print or online.

If you are looking for extra credit options for your students, the library has an introductory online module and quiz on plagiarism and academic integrity. Please get in touch with us if you would like to incorporate this quiz into your course, as student responses can be collected and made available to you.