

What is Library Instruction?

Library instruction introduces students to the Jefferson State library and all it has to offer to them. The instruction typically includes a tutorial of the library's Web site, including course-specific material that is available to the students online as well as information about the library's catalog and databases, including the Alabama Virtual Library. In addition to the online tutorial, students will typically be given a tour of the library in order to orient them to the location of various physical materials.

Why is Library Instruction important for new students?

Libraries differ in the types and level of information they provide to their users. New students might have used their high school library or even a public library before, but an academic library is different. A library instruction class will introduce material that is available for Jefferson State students and will show them the physical library so they will feel more comfortable with the research process.

Why is Library Instruction important for continuing students?

The field of librarianship is constantly changing with the emergence of new technologies. As a result, the amount of information available to students and the accessibility of such material can change, so even if students have visited the library before, they will most likely benefit from further instruction. What's more, librarians are constantly reviewing material to ensure that the most relevant resources are available to our campus, so a library instruction class is the best way to make that new information known to students.

What can I do to ensure that my students get the most out of their Library Instruction?

The librarians are here to help you and your students understand the resources available, but *you* can help ensure your students get the most out of the instruction. Though a librarian will teach the class, here are a few things you can do to help the process for your students:

- *Have an assignment or specific research topic for the students.* This will help make the library instruction relevant to them and will allow them to practice the techniques they hear. Hands-on practice will ensure they retain the information better than simply listening to the library instruction.
- *Attend the library instruction with your students.* Your presence in the room can add a level of comfort for the students as well as assuring the instruction covers all the relevant information that you want your students to learn.
- *Participate in the library instruction.* Students are usually reluctant to speak in a new environment, especially when it comes to something they do not understand fully. Your interjections to relate the library instruction to assignments and information from your past classes will make the session more relevant. Also, your participation might encourage more participation from the students.
- *Be aware of changes.* The library is constantly changing. We try to keep the faculty abreast of these changes, but it is imperative that you be aware when resources change so that you can relay this change to your students. If you feel another library instruction class is needed to discuss these changes, please contact us. We are here to help you!