2017 Library FYC News

DeWitt Wallace Library

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FYC Library Instruction Session

The Library is excited to partner with you to make the first year course experience for incoming Macalester students a great one. We have continued to make changes to the FYC Library Session to keep it lively and informative while covering the important information from the Library and ITS that your students need to know.

Goals of the FYC Library Session

Goals for the first year information fluency library session include:

- **Introducing students to academic scholarship**
  Students will understand that scholarly conversations take place in a variety of formats and learn strategies to locate these conversations.

- **Introducing students to critical evaluation and analysis of scholarly information**
  Students will have a basic understanding of how to identify and navigate interdisciplinary and disciplinary library research tools to access appropriate scholarly, peer-reviewed sources.

- **Introducing students to ethical use of information**
  Students will understand the importance of following proper citation practices.

- **Introducing students to scholarly communication**
  Students will be exposed to the lifecycle of scholarly information and the movement toward open access. This will allow them to become more effective information consumers.

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**Doing research on a topic means 'Googling it'?**

A Pew Internet Project study involving Advanced Placement and National Writing Project teachers and students explored how today's digital environment is "shaping the research and writing habits of middle and high school students."

Both teachers and students reported that, for today's students, doing "research" typically means "Googling it."

The top sources teachers in the Pew survey say that students are "very likely" to use in a typical research assignment are:

- **#1 - Google** or other search engines - 94%
- **#2 - Wikipedia** or similar online encyclopedias - 75%
- **#3 - YouTube** or other social media sites - 52%
- **#4 - Their peers** - 42%
- **#5 - Cliff Notes** or other study guides - 41%

Library academic databases such as Academic Search Premier or JSTOR were ranked #8 (17%) while asking a
• **Introducing students to their new roles as content creators**
  Students will have an awareness of how their research can contribute to new knowledge and allows them to become participants in the scholarly conversation.

By introducing students to these basic principles, the FYC Library Session will be creating a foundation on which the students can build their information fluency skills in future courses, research seminars, and capstone experiences.

**What you should expect**

The FYC Library Session consists of a pre-class activity and an in-class discussion and activity. The session is led by your department's liaison librarian with assistance from your AIA.

The pre-class online activity asks students to find a book and two articles on a pre-selected topic often related to the MacReads selection. Students then answer a few questions about the process they followed. Tutorials on Worldcat and Academic Search Premier are included in the activity.

In class, we facilitate a brief discussion around the students' experience completing the pre-class activity and dive into such topics as evaluation, efficient searching techniques, and using references and citation trails for more resources. Students then complete an activity to practice these techniques. The idea is to reinforce the concept of a "scholarly conversation" around a topic and to teach students different methods to find that conversation.

**Tips for planning a successful FYC Library Session**

**Tip #1 - Schedule your session in the first half of the semester**
The session is meant to give your students a foundation that that they can use not only in your first year course, but in all their classes and research

**Scheduling your FYC Library Session**

Your liaison librarian will be in contact with you in late August to talk about scheduling your FYC Library Session.

If you'd like to contact us earlier to schedule, please do so. To schedule your FYC Library Session, you can contact Beth Hillemann, Library Instruction Coordinator, or the liaison librarian for your department.

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**Social Sciences**
projects. It is helpful to your students to receive this information before research/writing projects are assigned in any of their classes.

**Tip #2 - Time the FYC Library Session with an assignment or current topic being discussed in class**
Our session works best if the information we cover is immediately used by the students for a class assignment or discussion.

**Tip #3 - Be there!**
The most productive FYC Library Sessions are those with the faculty member present and engaged in the discussion.

**Tip #4 - Consider a second session or requiring consultations with a librarian**
If you are asking students to conduct library research, we strongly recommend reinforcing and building on the introductory session by having a second session later in the semester. In a second session, we can cover discipline-specific resources targeted to the assignment, along with hands-on time for students to work on their own topics. If scheduling a second session is not possible, consider asking your students to schedule an individual 15-minute consultation with your liaison librarian. We love helping students with their research topics!