

the
NEW

Research 101

A New Approach to Library Tutorials

Anna Eisen (MLIS) & Kali Stoehr (MLIS)

INTRODUCTION

Each year approximately **6,000 freshmen** enroll at the University of Washington, and many will take a class that requires library research. In 2012, there were just **178 librarians** and professional staff serving over 40,000 students.

Librarians help students develop **information literacy skills** but are overwhelmed by the number of students in need of basic research skills. Students need to understand the **larger context of academic research** as they find and evaluate information.

Using **ACRL's Framework for Information Literacy**, we have designed an online interface with short videos, example assignments, and assessment tools. All content is easily embedded into course sites and library guides.

AUDIENCE

Instructors and professors

Librarians

College students

Community college students

High school students

The screenshot shows the 'Research 101' page on the University of Washington Libraries website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'UW HOME', 'DIRECTORIES', 'CALENDAR', 'MAPS', 'MY UW', 'UW BOTHELL', and 'UW TACOMA'. Below that is the 'UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES' logo and a search bar. The main navigation includes 'Home', 'start your research', 'use the libraries', 'help & support', 'about the libraries', and 'ask us!'. The 'Research 101' section has a sub-header 'This guide contains modules focused on introducing students to academic research' and a 'Print Guide' link. A horizontal menu lists modules: 'Home', 'Scholarship is a Conversation', 'Research is a Process', 'Format Matters', 'Credibility is Contextual', and 'Searching is Strategic'. The 'Scholarship is a Conversation' module is selected, showing a video player with a transcript and learning goals. The transcript includes a note about the guide's purpose and a list of learning goals: 'Recognize that a given scholarly work may not represent the only, or even the majority, perspective on the issue at hand.', 'Understand that they are entering the middle of the scholarly conversation, not the end.', and 'Critically evaluate contributions made by others and see self as a producer as well as consumer, of information.'

TOPICS

Scholarship is a Conversation
Effective researchers know that ideas are presented, discussed, and debated in scholarship over time.

Research is a Process
Research is iterative and depends on asking increasingly complex questions.

Format Matters
The way a document is presented indicates the strengths and weaknesses of a format.

Credibility is Contextual
Origin, need, and context help determine a source's authority and potential use.

Searching is Strategic
Researchers carefully select resources and tools to locate information and evaluate relevant results.

WHAT MAKES A MODULE

- **Introduction** to the topic
- **Learning goals**
- **1-2 minute video** and **transcript**
- **Assignments** for students
- **Assessment** to measure students' learning
- **Links** to related modules

NEXT STEPS

Research 101 will need to be promoted through the libraries to raise awareness among our intended audience.

Our white paper provides guidance for the **expansion and maintenance** of the site. We identify **best practices** and provide a guide to creating module components. We also offer suggestions for **new content** and key **campus resources and contacts** that have been invaluable to our work.