

Introduction to the Library for Online Students

Introduction

Though we often think of libraries as buildings with books, most of the Laurier Library's resources and services are available online.

I'll show you what's there and how to access it.

Finding Scholarly Sources

When doing research for your assignments, you'll be asked to use what are called academic, scholarly, or peer-reviewed sources.

These aren't the kinds of things you tend to find in Google, which only searches a small part of the web. There's a whole layer of web content that can only be accessed through specialized search tools. The Library provides search tools for academic or peer-reviewed content through its web site.

The best starting point for most scholarly sources is Omni, the Library catalogue. Just type your search into the box in the middle of the main library page to look for articles and books.

To the left of the results page, you'll see options to limit your results. One key limit for online students is Available online. Another is Peer-reviewed journals, which will show you the articles in scholarly or academic journals.

To view the full text, click on the record to see the details, then choose an option under View Online. At this point you'll need to log in. Use your network login, which is the same that you use to access MyLearningSpace.

Sometimes you won't find what you need in Omni, and will need another specialized search tool. To find one, click on the Research menu on any Library web page and pick Subject Guides. You'll see a list of different programs, like Policing or Social Work, and can pick the one that looks most useful. You'll see a list of the best search tools for that topic, along with links that point you to other useful resources for that subject area.

If you scroll down, you'll also see the librarian assigned to the subject listed on the page. All librarians are available by e-mail or online appointment, so feel free to contact yours to ask for help on your research.

Finding Other Sources

If you need something other than books or articles, click on the Research menu on any Library web page, then on More Research Materials. You'll see a list of other online resources, including data & statistics, news, music, and videos.

Getting Help

To get help with your research you can contact your librarian, or use the Ask Us chat box on any Library web page.

You can also get help and tips on research from the Library's series of videos and tutorials. To find them click on the Help menu, then choose Tutorials. You'll see a list of them on topics including picking a topic, writing a thesis, finding books and articles, citing sources, and using your sources effectively.

More Information

That's a quick summary of Library options for online students.

If you have any questions or want more details, ask us at library.wlu.ca/help/askus.