

Introduction to Library Research for Policing Students

Introduction

The Laurier Library has lots of online resources and services to help you in your Policing courses.

This video will show you what's available 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 Services menu on any Library web page and pick Subject Guides. You'll see a list of different programs, and can pick the one that looks most useful. Your best bet is Policing and Public Safety. On this page you'll see some search tools for Policing that are better for more in-depth research, or for specialized topics like legal research.

You'll also see the Policing librarian listed on the page. Feel free to contact her to ask for help with your research, by email, phone, or through an online appointment.

Finding Other Sources

There are other types of resources you might need during your degree program. If you click on the Research materials menu in the top navigation bar you'll see a list of them, including data & statistics and government resources.

Getting Help

You can get help with your research by using the Ask Us chat box on any Library web page. It's staffed most hours of the day, including evenings and weekends, and is especially useful for quick questions.

You can also get help and tips on how to do research for your assignments from the Library's series of videos. 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.