



UNION
PRESBYTERIAN
SEMINARY

Library

*Menu of Instructional Services
on the Richmond Campus*

Instructional Service Team:
Dora Rowe, Instructional Services Librarian
Robin McCall, Reference Librarian

Appetizers

These are all internet-based resources developed by the Seminary Library. They can all be linked directly into Blackboard courses, and all videos can be embedded as well.

RESEARCH BYTES VIDEOS

A video series on some tenets of basic research skills that are designed to enhance our students information literacy. These are a taster for our Main Courses, but they are not designed to replace an individualized class session. You can find them at:

<https://upsem.libguides.com/irc/rb>

TECH BYTES TRAINING GUIDES

General step-by-step guides to use as either refreshers or basic starting points in using software, platform, and digital resource tools to access or complete class projects. These are a taster for our Side Courses, but they are not designed to replace an individualized class session. You can find them at:

<https://upsem.libguides.com/irc/tech>

SEMINARY RESEARCH GUIDES RING

General web instruction guides for researchers and new patrons to use as they begin to navigate our resources and search for information. They can be linked directly into Blackboard courses. You can find them at:

<https://upsem.libguides.com/irc/rr>

COURSE-SPECIFIC RESEARCH GUIDE

Unique web instruction guides developed for specific courses. These guides can include suggested databases for students to use as they begin their research, links to library resources mentioned in the syllabi, and writing and citation information, and specific Tech Bytes that students might find useful as they complete their assignments. These guides can also be linked directly into Blackboard courses. These can take a couple of weeks each to develop; please ask us early so that we can get them for you as soon as possible!

Side Items

These are all individualized, hands-on tutorial sessions offered by the Seminary Library Instruction Team that do not directly relate to developing student research skills. They may be presented as part of regular in-class instruction, as optional extracurricular workshops, or as one-on-one training.

INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

Technology Specific Training:

Using Microsoft Word
Creating PowerPoint presentations
Hypothesis basics
Voice Thread basics
Building websites in WordPress
Recording basics
Navigating Zoom
Using Publisher

Performance in Education:

Basic storytelling techniques
Creating interactive educational manipulable objects
Developing craft programs
Planning a small event
Developing a storytime
Designing visual aids (and printing/laminating them!)

LIBRARY REFERENCE ROOM

Biblical Language Resource Sessions

General refreshers on using Hebrew and Greek lexicons and concordances, as well as the critical apparatus or Masorah parva in BHS. (General refreshers on Hebrew grammar rules are also available anytime!)

Accordance Software Training

Basic hands-on instruction in the Reference room in using Accordance to do biblical word studies and other tasks in English, Greek, or Hebrew.

Old Testament Resource Sessions

Broad-scope assistance on topics related to the study of the Hebrew Bible: deep dives on a particular focused topic; review sessions for those who took OT a while ago but need a refresher.

These are all individualized information literacy sessions offered by the Seminary Library Instruction Team of a regularly scheduled course, although they may also be presented as optional extracurricular workshops or static instruction, and often include an internet component as well. The descriptions below are what are available upon request, and can be adapted for the needs of the class and faculty.

EVALUATING THE CREDIBILITY OF SOURCES

Source Evaluation Dora Rowe

A discussion on how a specific source is evaluated based on publisher, currency, abstract, author, etc. We will identify basic criteria that can be used in this process.

Identifying a Textual BiasDora Rowe

Sometimes finding internal bias within a source isn't easy. This is a discussion on close reading a text and developing skills to recognize an author's unintentional implicit and/or hidden biases.

Identifying Diverse Sources.....Robin McCall

This a discussion of why it is important to seek out diverse scholarly voices in your research, how doing so will enrich your academic and theological work, and where to find source material.

SEARCHING BASICS

Developing a Research Question Dora Rowe

Designed to help the researcher move beyond an assigned topic to a well-honed research question that can be used to develop focused keywords and search strategies that retrieve relevant sources.

Conducting a Literature ReviewDora Rowe

Grounding the basics of the purpose and process of a conducting literature review as evidentiary support of a thesis within a larger work.

Organizing Research in Preparation to Writing.....Dora Rowe

This session is designed to help students learn to hone the wealth of information they have found and organize it so that they can then use it to write more effectively.

Using Zotero.....Dora Rowe

Using automation tools makes creating footnotes and bibliographies much easier. Zotero gathers metadata from websites to craft citations, making it invaluable in organizing information during the search process, and again when providing attribution within a finished project.

Courses

that directly relate to developing student research skills. They are intended to be offered by invitation as part as one-on-one training. They generally will take an hour of time, and involve hands-on activities as well as generally covered, but the actual sessions will reflect specific assignments whenever possible. Our lesson plans

TYPES OF INFORMATION

Information Cycle (Types of Sources) Dora Rowe

Follows the publication progression from immediate response on social media, through written news media, then scholarly articles and finally to monographs.

Developing Criteria for Appropriate Sources Dora Rowe

Provides pre-made, concrete tools to use as students begin their searching journey, and encourages them to develop their own criteria for winnowing out “fake news” and shoddy scholarship.

Identifying and Using Commentaries Robin McCall

Differentiates between commentary series intended for academic research vs. devotional reading, and explores how different series offer different hermeneutical perspectives on the Bible.

Brainstorming and Refining Question Arguments Robin McCall

Introduces methods for choosing research topics, identifying questions that will guide research, and articulating a clear and arguable thesis based on those research questions.

Primary Source Research..... Robin McCall

Provides instruction on conducting primary-source research using the writings of a particular theologian, biblical manuscripts, Jewish texts, or online primary-source databases.

SCHOLARSHIP AS CONVERSATION

Publishing and Peer Review Basics Robin McCall

Explores pathways for publishing articles or books, and explains the purpose and process of peer review in scholarly publication.

Research Within Graduate Education Beyond the M.Div Robin McCall

Provides an overview of the scope and range of research and writing required in D.Min, Th.M., and Ph.D. programs.

How to Read a Research Article..... Dora Rowe

A primer discussion on how to get quick information as well as the best ways to close read text.

Main Courses

FINDING SOURCES

Introduction to Using Library Resources..... Dora Rowe

A fast guide to finding print materials, using ILL, and accessing electronic resources. It covers using the catalog, the library website, and our research guides. It usually takes no more than 30 minutes.

Topic Researching Outside the Reference RoomDora Rowe

Discusses several online and in-library methods of research, from discovery through strategic shelf browsing to bibliography mining, and points in between.

Introduction to Finding Sources Online.....Dora Rowe

Basic introduction to searching, narrowing by facet, saving, and citing from the library's databases. Google Scholar and Open Access tools may be mentioned in this session, but not covered in depth.

Refined Database Searching.....Dora Rowe and Robin McCall

Choosing specific databases within the Library's collections, using Google Scholar, and using Open Access databases to perform more comprehensive literature reviews.

Using the Reference RoomRobin McCall

Using print commentaries, encyclopedias, dictionaries, theological handbooks, and atlases; researching with primary sources (writings of theologians, biblical manuscripts, Jewish texts, etc.).

Searching Specific Tools.....Robin McCall

Using discipline-specific resources for biblical studies (Context of Scripture Online, Oxford Biblical Studies Online, Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception); using online and electronic Bible study tools (Accordance, STEP Bible, BibleHub.com); using BHS's critical apparatus & Masorah parva.

Using the Digital Reference CollectionRobin McCall

Searching online databases, e-books, and open-access resources effectively and creatively; using digital primary-source collections (ex., Religious Periodicals from the Southern U.S., 1801-1904).

Researching for ExegesisRobin McCall

Step-by-step help on how to do Old or New Testament exegesis, and which specific library tools can help you accomplish each step.

Introduction to Library Serials.....Robin McCall

Finding the best journals for your research; how to read journal articles for content even if you aren't an expert in the field; when to use journal articles vs. commentaries vs. monographs.

Topic Researching Within the Reference Room.....Robin McCall

Guidance on doing topic-specific research at UPSem (such as researching the Black church in America, or house churches, or art history on the Psalms as a type of biblical exegesis).

(continued)

CITATIONS AND PLAGIARISM

Creating CitationsDora Rowe and Robin McCall

An in-depth look at the parts of a citation and how to format them from scratch. In general, the focus will be on Turabian's variation of the Chicago Manual of Style with SBL notation, but this can be adapted for a faculty member's individual citation preferences.

Avoiding Plagiarism..... Dora Rowe

Discusses what constitutes intellectual property and plagiarism, as well as discussing the difference between quotation, paraphrasing, and summary.

Using Zotero..... Dora Rowe

Using automation tools makes creating footnotes and bibliographies much easier. Zotero gathers metadata from websites to craft citations, making it invaluable in organizing information during the search process, and again when providing attribution within a finished project.

Just Desserts

These are other services offered by our Library Instruction Team to help provide customized research support for any faculty member that wishes for them.

Embedding Librarians

Any faculty member can request a librarian to be embedded directly into their course as a specific "on-tap" person for their class. This allows the apprehensive student to have an introduction of sorts, while more confident students can choose to search the library as they wish. The embedded librarian works with the instructor to develop a specific library guide to help their students begin to research. The librarian is also then prepared to help with instructional technology concerns, as well as library-related questions that develop around assignments and projects.

Requesting Materials for the IRC or Reference Room

Expert faculty suggestions and requests really help us to shape our library to be the most useful for all of our patrons. Please let us know when there is something that needs to be added, or to fill a hole in our collections.

Creating a Custom Course Session

If you want a session that isn't pre-developed in our menu, please don't hesitate to ask! We would love to design something specifically for your class.

Contacting the Library Instructional Team

DORA ROWE

2ND FLOOR NORTH EAST (NEXT TO THE ELEVATOR AND WATER FOUNTAIN)

804-278-4375 (PHONE)

804-420-2378 (TEXT)

DROWE@UPSEM.EDU

INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

Audiovisual Collection

- ◆ Reigner Recording Library
- ◆ Classroom videos
- ◆ Popular DVDs
- ◆ Small audiobook collection on CD

Christian Education Curriculum Collection

Makerspace

- ◆ Recording Studio
- ◆ Paper / Printing Studio
- ◆ Purposeful Play Center
- ◆ Video Conversion Rooms
- ◆ Digital Learning Lab

Children's Book Collection

ROBIN MCCALL

REFERENCE OFFICE (AT THE BACK OF THE REFERENCE ROOM, 1ST FLOOR WEST)

804-278-4333 (PHONE)

804-557-4717 (TEXT)

RMCCALL@UPSEM.EDU

HOW TO ORDER A SESSION FROM THIS MENU

Ordering online is simple:

 ***<https://upsem.libguides.com/irc/class-menu>***

Or, just email Dora (even for a session with Robin; centralizing the requests helps us coordinate services and keep up with our statistics!)