Online Tutorial Information
Faculty Guide to Research Process tutorial

1) Introduction

This tutorial series introduces students to information literacy skills and knowledge of the research process. The content will benefit Writing 10 students who are required to find resources to complete academic work.

Access the tutorial series from one of two locations on the UC Merced Library website.

- Through Doing Research > Subject & Course Guides > Getting Started > "The Research Process"

OR

- Through Doing Research > Tutorials > Writing 10 tag

Students can complete the tutorial independently or faculty may wish to incorporate some or all sections into class sessions.

All tutorial sections include pre-questions and activities; the final two sections also include demonstration screencasts with audio e.g. a demo of using Boolean operators to search in a database. An estimated amount of time for each section is listed below.

The details below outline each section's content and outcomes based on ACRL's Information Literacy Competency Standards.

If you have additional questions about the tutorial series, please contact Sara Davidson (209-205-8237) sdavidson2@ucmerced.edu OR email library@ucmerced.edu

2) Content & Outcomes

BEGIN RESEARCH	KNOWLEDGE CYCLE	FIND BOOKS	FIND ARTICLES	BASIC SEARCH	ADVANCED SEARCH

Research Process – UC Libraries Tutorial
Section 1: Begin Research
Learn more about understanding your assignment and choosing a suitable topic. Then you can select appropriate keywords to search. (~8:30, 17 slides)

Overview of Content:
- Pre-questions about topics and research
- Information about reading and understanding assignments
- How to select a manageable topic and customize it
- Constructing a sample research questions

- Generating key concepts, terms and synonyms from a research question
- Starting to find general information and moving to more specific topic information
- What type of resources include what type of information?
- Quiz - review

Outcomes: Students will be able to …
- correctly identify questions as too broad, too narrow, or manageable. (1.1.d)
- Students will be able to modify an information need to achieve a subject focus. (1.1.d)
- identify key concepts and terms to describe an information need. (1.1.e)
- identify terminology including synonyms to describe key concepts and terms. (2.2.b)
- identify appropriate resources based on a specific information need. (1.2.c)

Section 2: Knowledge Cycle
Become familiar with the information cycle and the purpose of various information sources. Understand how different disciplines define primary, secondary, and tertiary sources.
(~11:00, 16 slides)

Overview of Content:
- Pre-questions about the publication cycle and types of resources
- Timeline of scholarly research
- Information sources early in the information life cycle (minutes / hours)
- Information sources still relatively early in the information cycle (days to weeks)
- Emergence of scholarly articles (months to years)
- Cycle of revolving research (graphic)
- Interactive exercise identifying the best place to look for specific types of information
- Defining primary, secondary, and tertiary resources
- Interactive excise identifying what resources are primary, secondary, or tertiary
- Pyramid of scholarly information, very focused research
- Different types of research based on the discipline (chart)
- Quiz - review

Outcomes: Students will be able to …
- recognize how the publication cycle affects a researcher's access to information. (1.2.b)
- differentiate between primary, secondary, and tertiary sources (1.2.e)

Section 3: Find Books
Discover why books can be valuable sources and learn where to search for them. (~8:00, 15 slides)

Overview of Content:
- Pre-questions about finding books
- Defining the role of the library catalog, what it includes
- What is usually lacking in a library catalog
- Interactive exercise – identify what is available in a library's catalog

- Locating your campus' library catalog
- Information about Next Generation Melvyl Pilot catalog
- Keywords searching in catalogs
- Information available on catalog records
- The importance of call numbers with interactive exercise
- Subject searching in catalogs, finding related resources
- Quiz - review

Outcomes: Students will be able to …
- understand the effectiveness of using subject headings. (2.1.d)
- understand call number systems in order to locate information. (2.3.b)
- correctly identify the type of information located in a particular search tool. (2.1.c)

Section 4: Find Articles
Find out how to locate articles from newspapers, magazines, and scholarly journals in library databases. (8:00, 10 slides)

Overview of Content:
- Pre-question about finding articles
- Information about databases
- Finding databases at the library'
- Selecting appropriate databases for research
- Interactive exercise – identifying information which describes article databases
- Types of searches in databases; types of limits in databases
- Information needed to find an article including the UCeLinks button
- Quiz - review

Outcomes: Students will be able to …
- correctly identify the type of information located in particular search tool (2.1.c) – also in Section 3
- use available services to obtain desired materials. (1.3.a)

Section 5: Basic Search
Start a search and improve your search results by incorporating useful strategies. (17:30, 19 slides)

Overview of Content: (includes six screencasts with audio)
- How Boolean logic works
- Demonstrations of AND, OR, and NOT searching in Academic Search Complete (screencasts with audio)
- Combining Boolean operators
- Self-check questions to demonstrate understanding of Boolean operators
- Truncation technique with examples
- Demonstration of using truncation in Academic Search Complete (screencast with audio)

- Self-check questions to demonstrate understanding of truncation
- Explanation of limits available in databases
- Interactive exercise – connecting desired outcomes with appropriate limits
- Demonstration of using limits in Academic Search Complete (screencast with audio)
- Self-check questions to demonstrate an understanding of limits
- Sorting options available in databases
- Interactive exercise – identify which sort will give you the results you want
- Demonstration of sorting in Academic Search Complete (screencast with audio)
- Quiz - review

Outcomes: Students will be able to …
- demonstrate an understanding of Boolean logic. (2.2.d)
- use truncation correctly. (2.2.d)
- choose appropriate limits to narrow a search. (2.2.e.)
- choose appropriate sorting options to retrieve needed results. (2.3.a.)

Section 6: Advanced Search
Increase your search skills by incorporating subject searching, limiting by specific fields, and exploring additional databases. (~12:00, 15 slides)

Overview of Content: (includes two screencasts with audio)
- Explanation of subject headings and their usefulness
- Chart highlighting differences between subject and keyword searches
- Combining searches e.g. keyword and subject
- Demonstration of searching by keyword and subject in Academic Search Complete (screencast with audio), narrowing for relevant results
- Self-check questions to demonstrate an understanding of subject headings & searching
- Information about searching with specific fields (e.g. author, title etc.)
- Differences between field searching and keyword searching
- Demonstration of searching in specific fields in Academic Search Complete (screencast with audio)
- Self-check questions to demonstrate an understanding of fielded searching
- Focus on different content provided by different databases
- Distinguishes between a database name AND a database provider
- Examples of searching possibilities in a variety of databases (most provide similar functionality even if they look different from each other)
- Quiz - review

Outcomes: Students will be able to …
- understand the effectiveness of using subject headings. (2.1.d)
- limit to specific search fields appropriately. (2.2.e / 3.7.b)
- understand the breadth of information available in databases. (1.2.c)
- understand how information is organized and named e.g. in a database. (1.2.a)