

Online Resources

The MxCC Library website—A wealth of online information including ‘Help with your Research’; ‘Recommended Websites’; interlibrary loan service; placing items on reserve; online tutorials; and class guides and tip sheets. www.mxcc.commnet.edu/library

The Library Shell in Blackboard Vista

Every MxCC student and instructor is enrolled in the Blackboard Vista course “MxCC – Library—Research Help.” Point students here for information on accessing library resources from home, library services for distance learners, and online research tutorials.

“Library” Tab in myCommNet

To find eBooks and articles from home, students need to go to the “Library” tab in myCommNet. (Note: they *cannot* access library resources from home via the library website.) For more information, refer to www.mxcc.commnet.edu/library/blackboard/accesshome.pdf

Online Tutorials

To aid students with research, instructors may link to these tutorials from their course shell:

- Introduction to the Library
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2K3hzOqfV2E>
- Research Process 101
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jYQ0UKJlb18>
- How to Find What You Need
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FyUG5AyrvVU>
- Evaluating Websites
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ZFJpEkSuEA>
- Avoiding Plagiarism and Using Proper Citation
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2AR5-sDfbU>

Live Research Help—We can provide live help to your class via Blackboard's Chat feature. Contact us to schedule a time!

Middlesex Community College

Information Literacy Instruction



Jean Burr Smith Library
100 Training Hill Road
Middletown, CT 06457
860.343.5830
mx-library@mxcc.commnet.edu

For more info including sample assignments, best practices, and assessment, refer to the **ILI Toolkit** found online at www.mxcc.commnet.edu/library

Information is a prominent part of all facets of our modern society and lifestyle. As such, Middlesex Community College recognizes the importance of information literacy: the ability to understand, navigate, and use information effectively. Accordingly, MxCC has established competencies in information literacy that students should attain upon graduation. Specific outcomes include the ability to:

- Recognize how information is generally organized and disseminated and how to access it.
- Identify key resources for and effectively navigate information within specific disciplines.
- Define a specific research topic and determine the nature and extent of the information needed for it.
- Develop and implement an initial search strategy appropriate for a specific research need.
- Assess the effectiveness of a search strategy and refine it as necessary.
- Evaluate information and sources critically to determine if they are appropriate for use.
- Identify and employ practices which are consistent with the ethical and legal uses of information.
- Organize, synthesize, & communicate information effectively.

A Sample of Best Practices from Faculty



Always send a copy of your syllabus and assignment(s) to the library, even if not requesting instruction.

Try a dry run of assignments yourself—are directions clear and suggested materials available?

Carefully consider the timing of IL instruction in relation to your syllabus.

Shorter, more frequent IL sessions are better than one marathon session.

Take advantage of all the physical and online support available to you and direct your students to do the same.

Phone us to discuss any of these options, or use the online instructional request form found under 'Faculty Quick Links' on the website.

Basic (with/without student computers)— Intro to the library and online resources, as well as general overview of the research process. Appropriate for developmental and English 101.

Specialized (with or without student computers)— Review skills appropriate to students' subject knowledge and research experience. Recommended for subject-specific courses.

Research Only— Librarians attend class sessions in computer rooms or the library to assist students working on projects.

Single Topic Workshops — Each workshop focuses on a specific skill set, such as 'How to Read Scholarly Journals' and 'Beyond Wikipedia'. You identify the need, we provide the workshop.

One-on-one Consultation (by appt.)— If a student needs additional support, you may want to encourage them to call to schedule an appointment with one of the MxCC librarians.

Class Guides — We can create an online guide relating to a specific assignment, class, and/or multiple learning outcomes. For examples, visit <http://mxcchl103.blogspot.com/> or <http://fs100mxcc.blogspot.com/>

Tip Sheets — Visit the library website [www.mxcc.comnet.edu/library]. From the left hand column, 'Help with your Research', 'Finding Information', you'll find tip sheets created in response to specific assignments as well as general concepts. For example: how to find literary reviews and criticisms, statistical and background info, and college success tips.

'Librarian is In'— Librarians will be available during crunch time in the computer lab in Wheaton Hall and by appointment on the Meriden campus. Check the library website for days/times.