To: All First-Year Composition Teachers  
From: Kelly Tilton, Information Literacy Instruction Librarian  
Re: Library Instruction

Your class might be the first (and only) time that students are introduced to library resources that can help them through their undergraduate years and beyond. Please, help students get to know the library and what we can do for them!

Librarians provide assistance in finding, evaluating, and citing sources in all disciplines. In a survey conducted by the Libraries in April 2014, 94% of composition instructors who had scheduled library instruction for their composition classes would be “very likely” to do so again. Additionally, 100% thought that library instruction was helpful for their students.

Here are answers to a few commonly asked questions about library instruction:

**Why schedule a library session for my class when I can introduce students to library resources myself?**

When students visit the library in person, they not only learn how to use the academic support resources available to them—they also encounter people, services, and spaces that can help them throughout their college careers. We offer in-class activities and provide tutorials designed to make your students better searchers and users of information. We aren’t book experts—we’re information experts, and our specialties are in finding, evaluating, and citing information sources—and not just in the field of English.

**Should I think about library collections and online subscriptions before designing my assignments?**

Yes! Please do! This is especially important for **English 102 assignments**. Knowing what the library has—and what we do not have—will make it easier for you to create assignments that students can accomplish (and you can grade) without unnecessary frustration. Just like you, we want your students to be successful.

**What’s the easiest way to become familiar with library collections for my class?**

Librarians have created research guides for many classes. Visit [http://libguides.utk.edu](http://libguides.utk.edu) and look for the *English* heading. Then click on *English 101, English 102, English 118, or Primary Sources* for more information. **We will also work with you to create assignments and research guides specifically for your classes.** Contact me (ktilton@utk.edu) to set up a meeting.

**How do I schedule a library instruction session?**

To schedule a library instruction session, or for more information, visit [http://www.lib.utk.edu/instruct/](http://www.lib.utk.edu/instruct/).

When students know where and how to find good sources, they will likely turn in good papers. So, please think of librarians as your partners in helping students become better writers and researchers. And don’t forget that the library also has an English liaison librarian to help you with your own research needs at the graduate level: [http://libguides.utk.edu/english](http://libguides.utk.edu/english).

Sincerely,  
Kelly Tilton
Hodges Library and Research Instruction
Information

Our Services

In-Library Instruction
We provide instruction for classes of all sizes in Hodges Library. We tailor the instruction to fit your syllabus, assignment, or learning outcomes. Some popular instruction topics are: finding books and articles for an assignment, identifying good sources of information, citation development and organization, and plagiarism. Please request instruction at least two weeks before your scheduled class on our instruction page.

In addition to “typical” instruction, Hodges also provides instruction for citation management programs (such as Endnote or Zotero), as well as multi-media and Studio instruction. So, if the capstone of your course is a multi-media project, you may bring your students in for specific or technological instruction.

Classroom Instruction
If, for some reason, you cannot bring your class into the library, we also provide on-site instruction in the classroom of your choice, or online, through both synchronous and asynchronous methods. As with in-library instruction, we ask that you request instruction at least two weeks before your scheduled class.

Research Help
When planning for your courses, especially English 102, please consider meeting with our information literacy instruction librarian, Kelly Tilton (ktilton@utk.edu) in order to find the best resources for your inquiry. In addition to finding databases and other resources, she can add your inquiry to our Primary Sources guide for students to access.

Our Resources

Research Guides
Hodges librarians have developed various research guides for student and faculty use. There are general guides for research and writing help, as well as specific course guides (including English 101/102/118) that give students a starting point for their research.

Blackboard/Canvas Resources
We encourage instructors to organize their classes and cut down on paper waste using an online platform such as Blackboard or Canvas. We provide guidance on copyright issues relating to documents and learning objects, as well as best practices in using online resources in general. For a full list of online resources, see our information page for faculty.
Library Tutorials

We support a growing number of tutorials on our website. Some popular ones are: finding books, finding articles, library tour, and scholarly vs. popular articles. If students need additional help, they can chat with us or see the Library FAQ.

Our Philosophy (And How It Pertains to Yours!)

The ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education

Library instruction at the University of Tennessee is based on the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy, based both on the ACRL Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education as well as independent research on information literacy. The basic tenets of the framework are as follows:
• Authority is Constructed and Contextual
• Information Creation as Process
• Information Has Value
• Research as Inquiry
• Scholarship as Conversation
• Searching as Strategic Exploration

How it Relates to the Composition Program at UT

For some time now, the library has sought to integrate our general education instruction program with that of the program taught in ENGL 505 – Composition Pedagogy. We believe that the general education program at the library helps support the teaching of ENGL 101/102/118 at every juncture. We encourage learning concepts in rhetorical modes of persuasion, genre writing, and specialized research, and we tailor instruction sessions with these concepts in mind. The library works closely with the Writing Center, provides spaces and resources to instructors, and is expanding services to the growing international student population.

Questions and Suggestions

If you have any questions or suggestions concerning library instruction, or if you would like to set up a meeting with a library representative, please email Kelly Tilton (ktilton@utk.edu). We look forward to working with you and your students!