July 13, 2018

Dear First-Year Composition Teachers,

Hello! My name is Charissa Powell and I am the librarian for your first-year composition classes. Your class might be the first time that students are introduced to library resources that can help them through their undergraduate years and beyond. I am excited to work with you and your students!

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

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

When students visit the library, 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 academic careers. We offer in-class activities and tutorials designed to make your students better searchers and users of information. Librarians are information experts and our specialties are in finding, evaluating, and citing information sources.

**What should I do before our session?**

Make sure to schedule your session at least two weeks in advance to give us time to find a room. If you would like your students to complete pre-work, please let Charissa (cpowel27@utk.edu) know. Completing pre-work before coming to our session prepares your students to make the most of their time in the library.

**Should I think about library resources before designing my assignments?**

Yes! Just like you, we want your students to be successful. This is especially important for English 102 assignments. Knowing what the library has, in print and online, will make it easier for you to create assignments that students can accomplish without unnecessary frustration. Librarians have also created research guides for many classes. Visit libguides.utk.edu and look for the English heading. Then click on English 101, 102, 118, or Primary Sources.

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

To try and secure your preferred day, please request sessions at least two weeks in advance. To do so or learn more visit lib.utk.edu/instruct/.

When students know where and how to find information they become more information literate. So, please think of librarians as your partners in helping students become better writers and researchers. Please email me (cpowel27@utk.edu) with any questions. I look forward to seeing you this coming year!

Sincerely,

Charissa Powell
Student Success Librarian for Information Literacy