

The Writing Center @ KUMC

Using Research Librarians for Scholarly Writing



Librarians are your secret weapon. Your ace in the hole. They are information specialists whose forte is how to not only search effectively for sources but also to assess the quality of sources and thus strengthen your project. Using or not using a research librarian can make or break a project. You should utilize the services of these experts at least once during school or residency to fully understand their value in research.

Librarians can be critical at all stages of a project. They are a great resource at the start when you need to locate a variety of material. Rather than spending hours slogging through databases, you can save time working with librarians. Their expertise centers on knowing the right places to search and the most appropriate terms and concepts by which to search. What could take you days or weeks might be shortened to hours. When you're in the middle of a project, librarians can update you on newly released studies or websites that might provide a key element to your work. And when you check with them at the conclusion of a paper, you're likely to get some encouragement or even recommendations about publishing!

Working one-on-one with a research librarian is just the start. The new generation of information professionals complement their considerable knowledge with library programs that meet the needs of emerging scholars. This collaboration brings about research results and engenders collegiality, respect, and trust—a boon in its own right.

Ask a librarian for help on your next research paper. It's a great way to enhance your learning while in your courses and in pursuit of your professional goals at KUMC. Research librarians are fine guides and partners in the research experience. Get in touch with them before your next assignment, have a chat, discuss your concerns, and ask questions about any aspect of research. Everybody needs support!