

Library Instruction

The Library is committed to teaching students how to find and use information effectively. We offer instruction to groups and individuals through our program of classroom instruction, classroom

<p>Searching Databases (demonstration of basic search techniques) keyword searching, combining search terms using AND and OR, basic limit and expand options, interpreting results, locating full-text articles</p>	<p>20 minutes (add 10 minutes for interactive activity and each additional database)</p>
<p>Searching Databases (demonstration of advanced search techniques) basic search techniques (above) plus advanced search features such as thesaurus/descriptor searching, citation searching, saving searches and setting up alerts, exporting results to RefWorks, etc.</p>	<p>30 minutes (add 10 minutes for interactive activity and for each additional database)</p>
<p>Understanding Database Results/Deciphering Database Records identifying elements of a citation; distinguishing between different types of sources</p>	<p>5 minutes (add 5 minutes for interactive activity)</p>

Searching Statistical Databases

locating statistics using the Statistics Canada web site and various statis

will learn how to define a topic, plan a search strategy, search for books and journals using the library catalogue, locate journal articles using a journal database, and evaluate search results. If you would like information about this instructional tool, please contact Cindy Harrigan (cindy.harrigan@smu.ca; 902-496-8789).

Tutorials and Help Guides

The Library has many tutorials and guides (<http://www.smu.ca/academics/library-guides.html>) available to help students learn about research resources in their subjects and develop their information skills. Feel free to link to them in your class materials or embed them in your Brightspace courses. We can show you how to do this. We are always developing new guides and tutorials. Please contact [Heather](#) (902-420-5541) or [Cindy](#) (902-496-8789) if you have any suggestions for a guide or tutorial you'd like us to develop or adapt.

Individual Instruction

Individual assistance is available through the Library's **Research-by-Appointment** service. Both students and faculty may schedule appointments with a librarian for in-depth assistance in the use of the Library's research resources. Students may use this service to discuss specific research difficulties, database searching, or finding information for a topic or assignment. Please encourage your students to make use of this library support. Interested Faculty may wish to discuss with a librarian their research projects, new course proposals (and the resources available to support them), using RefWorks to organize sources, etc. We are also able to provide training to your research assistants. Appointments can be booked by calling the Library's Research Help Desk at 902-420-5544.