

Library Learning and Teaching Support Offer 2021-2022

Supporting education is core to the Library's mission to enhance learning and enable research and enquiry. Our goal is to support students of all backgrounds and disciplines to become independent learners, who are critical, confident and adept in their use of information. As a partner in education, we provide targeted, technology driven activities, supporting students in finding, evaluating and using information. These activities have been designed to be embedded within the curriculum to help students to build their information and digital literacies, building essential skills for academic study and employment.

The learning outcomes for our activities have been informed by the University of Exeter Education Strategy¹ and a range of professional guidelines². Support is offered to students from undergraduate to postgraduate level and is intended to provide support at key points in the academic journey, from their first encounters with academic resources to their development as independent researchers.

Our key principles

Online

Activities are offered as interactive online tutorials incorporating interactive exercises and knowledge-checks. This self-paced format allows students to receive timely support, and enables them to access and return to the content whenever they need it. Where appropriate, activities may also be offered within a flipped-classroom model.

Developmental

Our activities have been designed to enable continued scaffolding of concepts and learning throughout a student's time at university.

Embedded

Support has been designed to be embedded within the curriculum. This is to ensure that students receive timely and relevant support that can be directly applied to their academic assessments.

Active

Each aspect of the Learning and Teaching Support Offer has been developed with active learning in mind. Whether via an online tutorial or flipped classroom approach, information skills instruction is most effective when students can apply the key concepts that are being taught via practical, hands-on activities³.

Support for your students

Our **Learning and Teaching support pages** indicate our offer for your discipline and aim to support students to reinforce and develop learning at key stages. Support can be adapted to individual circumstances upon discussion with the Library Liaison team.

To arrange bespoke support, please contact [your liaison librarian](#) to discuss your needs. Please submit any requests at least **two weeks** before you require the content. 1:1 appointments are available for any student requiring tailored guidance or training from a Librarian.

View the Learning and Teaching support for your subject: www.exeter.ac.uk/library/academicstaff

¹ University of Exeter, n.d. *Education Strategy 2019-2025*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/about/vision/educationstrategy/> [Accessed 23/06/2021].

² Secker, J. & C. E., 2011. *A New Curriculum for Information Literacy*. [Online] Available at: <https://infolit.org.uk/definitions-models/> [Accessed 21/06/2018] and ACRL, *Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education*, [Online] Available at: <http://www.ala.org/acrl/standards/ilframework> [Accessed 21/06/2018].

³ Gonzales, B. M. (2014) *Online Tutorials and Effective Information Literacy Instruction for Distance Learners*, *Journal of Library & Information Services in Distance Learning*, 8(1-2), pp. 45-55.

The activities highlighted below indicate the areas in which we can provide support and how activities can be built-on across programmes. For examples, please see the Learning and Teaching support page for your subject.

1. Library Induction

Designed to introduce students to the range of resources, facilities and services available to support their academic journey. The induction will highlight the link between use of library resources and academic achievement. The induction provides an interactive introduction to Library Search as well as covering practical essentials such as how to borrow and renew books and find study space.

Students will:

- Understand how Library resources underpin learning and research at university
- Develop a practical understanding of how to use and access library resources, spaces and facilities
- Be aware of the main sources of library information and support for their subject discipline

2. Finding and using library resources for assignments

Provides an introduction to the skills required to effectively find, evaluate and use information for assignments. The content will be tailored to students' subject-discipline, module assignment, and level of study. For first year undergraduates, this activity will support their transition to higher education by exploring literature searching techniques to begin the process of searching independently.

Students will:

- Determine an appropriate scope of investigation for their assignment
- Identify key information finding aids in their discipline - e.g. catalogues, full-text databases, abstract and indexing services
- Be able to conduct an effective search using appropriate terminology and search techniques to find relevant literature on their topic
- Apply evaluation criteria to determine the accuracy, authority and relevance of search results

3. Evaluating information sources

Builds on earlier support for information searching and is designed to address the importance of evaluating information sources for academic research and assignments. Students will examine some of the main criteria for determining the academic quality of the information they find (currency, relevancy, authority etc.), and carry out practical activities to critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of different information sources.

Students will:

- Understand the importance of evaluating information sources to support academic research
- Be introduced to evaluation criteria to discriminate between good quality academic sources
- Critically assess the authority, reliability and validity of a range of information sources in their discipline

4. Effective research for dissertations and independent projects

Designed to prepare students for more advanced literature searching as part of dissertations and independent projects. Students will develop further confidence as independent researchers, formulating comprehensive search strategies and applying these on relevant resources. Services and support for expanding their research beyond the university library collections will be highlighted.

Students will:

- Understand the importance of planning an appropriate search strategy when identifying literature for their dissertation
- Be able to apply advanced search techniques on specialist digital resources to identify relevant information from a range of sources
- Understand that a systematic approach for identifying literature may include looking beyond the information held by the university library