

**Steps Toward a Successful Library Research Experience**  
**Course-Related Library Information Instruction provided by Olson Library Faculty**

	<b>Steps TOWARD a successful library research experience</b>		<b>Steps to AVOID an unsuccessful library research experience</b>
✓	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Request library instruction.</i></p> <p>Library faculty teach students how to use specific course-related research tools for your assignments. Consider incorporating an active learning component, or scheduling two sessions to cover many resources. A minimum 14-day advance notice is required to help accommodate your preferred instruction date, which should be when students begin working on assignments.</p>	✓	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Do not assume the students in your class have the necessary library skills to complete your assignment effectively.</i></p> <p>We have found upper division and graduate level students who have not used the library very much; who lack the skills to find periodical articles, reference materials, government documents, and other specialized information sources that may be required in your class. Feel free to ask us to compile a library guide and provide library instruction for your class.</p>
✓	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Plan a Follow-up Library Work Session</i></p> <p>Please contact the Reference Office (227-2294) at least 5 days ahead if you plan to bring your class to the library for a work session. Space is limited, but we may be able to reserve a work area for you. Alerting us that your students will be utilizing resources/services helps us help you.</p>	✓	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Do not give “treasure hunt” assignments.</i></p> <p>Students do not learn effective library use in treasure hunts because they are searching for specific bits of information without prior instruction in doing so. Library assignments that are directly related to your course are much more effective.</p>
✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Assignment Tips</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. E-mail assignments to your Library Liaison: <a href="http://library.nmu.edu/about/library_staff.php?order=Liaisons">http://library.nmu.edu/about/library_staff.php?order=Liaisons</a></li> <li>2. <b>Use e-Reserve</b> or verify that assigned material is available in the library (never assume).</li> <li>3. Include call numbers and locations of sources on assignments.</li> <li>4. Verify that answers are available to specific questions. Sometimes information that would seem easy to find is difficult.</li> </ol>	✓	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Do not assign all students in your class the same topic for a project.</i></p> <p>This often results in major problems for students who try to find resources that are checked out or being used by other students. Vary topics so there are sufficient materials available for the whole class.</p>

Further information & link to instruction request form available at: <http://library.nmu.edu/services/faculty/instruction.htm>

Instructional Videos available at: <http://library.nmu.edu/guides/videos.htm>