

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

	Steps TOWARD a successful library research experience		Steps to AVOID an unsuccessful library research experience
✓	<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>Want students to visit the library for a “research day”? Please submit a classroom reservation request at least 7 days in advance: http://library.nmu.edu/forms/mailerforms/libraryclassroom_request.php Space is limited.</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"> 1. E-mail assignments to your Library Liaison: http://library.nmu.edu/about/library_staff.php?order=liaisons 2. Use Course Reserves (including eReserves), or verify that assigned material is available in the library (never assume). 3. Include call numbers and locations of sources on assignments. 4. Verify that answers are available to specific questions. Sometimes information which may appear easy to find is difficult. 	✓	<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>