Instruction Is a Major Focus at the Salmon Library

Library instruction is a vital part of our mission at the Salmon Library. Our sessions are focused on providing guidance and tactics on how to stay on top of the vastly changing information landscape as new publication models add to the complexity of geometric growth. This past year, we had over 100 library instruction sessions and met with nearly 3000 students, and the vast majority said they learned new and useful things. We tailor library instruction to your needs, providing you with the resources, research tips, and answers that fit your goals. Have a class that could use help with peer-reviewed journals? Have a club that tracks new developments in tech? Just doing a personal project using census data? We can work with that, from large classes down to one-on-one sessions. We also will be bringing back our Refined Researchers for a Fall series (see page 3), so keep an eye out for those as well as some new exciting developments, such as our video series (see below). If you would like to schedule library instruction or are just curious what we offer, then call (256)824-6529, email refdesk@uah.edu, or visit our homepage. We are glad to help!

Did you know we have a YouTube feed, full of videos from our archives and other fascinating insights into the Salmon Library and local history? Well, now is the time to follow us, because we are rolling out a new series of videos explaining important library and information literacy concepts, from important research resources to how to better use fair use.

Find us at youtube.com/UAHSalmonLibrary
What do you remember about the library when you were in school? I spent hours in the Education Library at Peabody College at Vanderbilt, reading microfiche & microfilm, going through the stacks for articles, working on the lab PCs, and studying away from distractions. When I went back for my dissertation, the reference librarians were critical. They would listen to me and discern what I was trying to do, and then point me to resources I would have never known to use.

Why do you think that the library is important? The main thing is having such a wide breadth of information available to you, literally at your fingertips. It’s a huge resource for students. We encourage students to become aware of all the resources there - the juvenile collections, the state-approved textbooks, etc. - and to use them. For me as a teacher, it is the notion that we are continuous learners. There is such an explosion of information. I have found reference librarians are an incredible resource.

One thing that you would like to remind your students is...: Be willing to take those risks, to ask questions, to do things maybe outside your comfort zone! Do something different, do something new, something you might not have ever otherwise entertained or thought about. Be willing to do things beyond just showing up for class. Realize that there are many people here who want to see students succeed, so just ask! You are surrounded by people who have a commitment to your success.

Meet Annie and Reagan!

Reagan Grimsley (Head of Special Collections and Archives): Reagan earned a BS, MA, and MLIS from the University of Southern Mississippi, and is ABD in the PhD history program at Georgia State University. He has 16 years of experience in the field: including teaching archival studies at Auburn University, serving as the Archivist at Columbus State University, and serving as the Special Collections Librarian at Pikeville University. He is a native of Mississippi’s piney woods, and the region is the focus of much of his research. He enjoys amateur astronomy, fishing, kayaking, and spending time with his wife and four children.

Annie Matthys (User Services Administrator and Instruction Librarian): Annie earned her MLIS from Drexel University and BA in English from Suffolk University in Boston, MA. She worked at the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library for 7 years, most recently as the Head of Youth Services. She and her husband Chris have been married for 3 years and live in southeast Huntsville. Annie is passionate about baking and gets misty-eyed over a perfect batch of buttermilk biscuits. Annie will also be the new English and Art liaison librarian.
The Salmon Library has implemented and enhanced a number of initiatives that provide more and better services to our campus. One significant enhancement is our library instruction program, which promotes information literacy to our students. Information literacy forms the basis for lifelong learning and is common to all disciplines, to all learning environments, and to all levels of education. It enables learners to master content and extend their investigations, become more self-directed, and assume greater control over their own learning. I am pleased to report that our library instruction program connected with 2,143 students from a wide variety of classes last year, a 105% increase. To that end I am excited to begin a new academic year with our instruction program as we continue to make a significant impact on our students’ success and experience here at UAH.

I am also excited to welcome aboard Ms. Annie Matthys, User Services Administrator and Instruction Librarian, who started in February, and Mr. Reagan Grimsley, Head of Archives and Special Collections, who started in June. We look forward to Reagan’s guidance and leadership as UAH’s archives and special collections are taken to the next level. Thank you for your support of the UAH Library, and I wish you a successful 2016-17 academic year! --David Moore