Well-Informed IQP Teams

Gordon Library

2015

Library Resources

Check your ID2050 course site for "Library Assignments"

You will find:

▶ Your site librarian and contact information

▶ The IQP Research Guide

ask us!

We're here to help

Clarify your Information Needs

- ▶ **A Literature review** describes, summarizes, evaluates, clarifies and integrates information on your project topic

- ▶ **A background chapter** reports on your sponsor, your location, past projects, etc.

- ▶ **A project proposal** requires methods.

Great IQPs typically cite:

- Peer-reviewed, scholarly articles
- Governmental websites and reports
- Organizational websites and reports
- Books

Have a Plan

- Determine how your team will organize information
- Consider all your questions:
  - Fact based
  - Idea based
- Take each question separately and consider:
  - Who cares about this information?
  - Where would those who care share this information?
  - What keywords and jargon would they use?
  - What databases have the information *type* that you need?

Organizing Knowledge:

▶ Citation Managers (Endnote, RefWorks, EasyBib, Flow, Etc.)

▶ Citation Formats (IQPs use APA)

▶ Collaborative Spaces

Endnote: Why use it?

1. Gather your group's information in one place

2. Organize your information

3. Insert in-text citations automatically

4. Format citations into APA format automatically

Endnote Lessons Learned

▶ You need to take the time to set up Endnote. It takes at least one hour – not kidding.

▶ Your whole team needs to commit to using it in order to have a positive experience.

▶ Be willing to do some troubleshooting. Ask the Research and Instruction team, or call endnote help directly – their phone help is outstanding.

▶ MAC USERS: Use the pdf linked on the IQP research guide, under the Endnote Tab. It works!

Other Citing Tips

- Use the citing features in:
  - Summon
  - Google Scholar
  - Other research databases

If you can't find an easy way to copy and paste a citation, use the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL)

- Many of your sources will not have a personal author. Rather, they will have a corporate author. For example, WPI can be a corporate author. For entry in Endnote, add a comma after the phrase name, as in:
  - Worcester Polytechnic Institute,

Not all information can be found in one place.

- As a rule of thumb, **use at least three search tools** to look for information in any given search.

- Example: Looking for peer-reviewed literature?

  - Summon

  - Google Scholar

  - Subject Specific Databases

Get the most out of Google

- Use site search features to focus on one domain type (e.g. .edu, .gov, .org, .au).
  - Examples:
    - Education policy site:.gov
    - "Science museum" site:.th
- Look for associations and organizations by adding the word "Association" to your searches.
- Go to the second page of results – most people don't!

Keywords

- ▶ Yes, think of synonyms, acronyms, and phrases.

- ▶ But also…..have patience.

  - ▶ Every discipline has its own vocabulary.

  - ▶ Keywords differ by publication type. i.e. Researchers will use technical terms, but journalists will use popular terms.

  - ▶ Finding the right search terms can take 10 or 20 searches in multiple places, even for the best researchers out there!

  - ▶ Ask your advisors, your professors, your sponsors, and your librarian for ideas.

Your Job

- Continue searching for information sources.

- Find information that would be of value to your sponsor, your advisor, any other stakeholders

- Make an appointment with your librarian and bring your list of top 8 sources to review. These should be in APA format or in a citation management account.