Top 10 Things You Should Know...

...about college and university libraries!
1. You will need to use the library!

- Study
- Research
- Read
- Course reserves
- CDs
- DVDs
- Streaming videos

- WIFI / internet
- iPads, smart phones, and other mobile devices
- Laptop checkout
- Library website
  - Premium databases
  - Online encyclopedias
  - Research tutorials

...and of course, librarians!
We are your personal research assistants.
2. College libraries organize their materials differently.

Dewey Decimal System
- K – 12 & public libraries

Library of Congress
- College/University libraries
Dewey Decimal System

• 000-099 General Knowledge
• 100-199 Psychology & Philosophy
• 200-299 Religions & Mythology
• 300-399 Social Sciences & Folklore
• 400-499 Languages & Grammar
• 500-599 Math & Science
• 600-699 Medicine & Technology
• 700-799 Arts & Entertainment
• 800-899 Literature
• 900-999 History & Geography
Library of Congress

- A – General Works
- B – Philosophy, Psychology, & Religion
- C – General History
- D – European, Asian, African History
- E – U.S. History
- F – History of the Americas
- G – Geography, Anthropology
- H – Social Sciences
- J – Political Science
- K – Law
- L – Education
- M – Music
- N – Art, Architecture
- P – Language & Literature
- Q – Science
- R – Medicine
- S – Agriculture
- T – Technology
- U-V – Military Science
- Z – Library Science
Dewey vs. LC

Dewey Decimal System
- 300s – social sciences

Call number:
363
.70525
FR

Library of Congress System
- GE – environmental sciences

Call number:
GE
197
.F75
2008
3. Librarians are really, really helpful.

- Especially the reference kind
- Contact us through
  - Phone
  - Chat/IM
  - Email
  - or in person
4. Don’t Procrastinate!

- It’s a common freshman mistake to underestimate how much time it will take to complete a college assignment.
  - Manage your time wisely
  - Don’t get overwhelmed
  - Don’t miss the first day of class
  - Ask for help
5. Strategize.

- Don’t just jump into research
  - Narrow/Expand your *thesis/essential question*
  - Look in core research areas
  - Think of keywords
  - Find appropriate resources
  - Be flexible
6. Choose the right resources.

Background info → specific info → opinions/facts

so...
Encyclopedias/reference → articles/books/websites
Great resources include...

- Reference materials (print and online)
- Books and e-books
- Periodicals (scholarly journals & magazines)
- Internet sources (wide variety of content)
7. Not everything is freely available on the internet.

Everything’s on Google right?

Well, no. There’s a whole “invisible Web” out there.
Limitations of the Web

- No standard subject headings / vocabulary
- No quality control
  - Anyone can, and will, publish anything
- Web pages often disappear
But it’s not all bad!

- Most gov’t data is published online
- Lots of business info
- Blogs can be great sources of opinion
- Videocasts/podcasts
8. College libraries have amazing databases.

- Online reference works
- Articles from peer-reviewed journals
- Online graphic and image collections
- E-books by the tens of thousands
- Streaming videos

Accessible from the library’s website from anywhere with an internet connection.

http://library.austincc.edu

http://cphs.leander.isd.tenet.edu/library

www.lib.utexas.edu
CPHS vs. ACC

CPHS
- 21,107 books
- 121 ebooks
- 76 print periodicals

ACC
- 153,962 books
- Over 30,000 ebooks
- 1,059 print periodicals
- Over 8,000 Streaming videos

...and four-year universities have even more!
9. Evaluate **everything**.

- **AUTHORITY** (Who wrote it? Are they qualified?)
- **OBJECTIVITY** (What’s their point of view?)
- **SCOPE** (What’s the goal? For whom is it intended?)
- **ACCURACY** (References? Errors?)
- **APPROPRIATE DATE** (How old is it? Primary source?)
10. We’re living in the information age.

Citizens of the 21st century must be information literate:

- identify an information need
- find, collect, organize, evaluate and use the information
- be capable of working across a variety of platforms