

INFORMATION LITERACY INSTRUCTION

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J. MURREY ATKINS LIBRARY

Teaching Students How To Use The Library

Most people do not think of librarians as teachers. But that is exactly what we, in Atkins Library, are. In fact, our teaching goals are the same as UNCC teaching faculty goals: student success.

Fourteen Atkins Librarians taught almost **400 instructional sessions** in the library in the 2005-2006 academic year, reaching almost **8,000 students**.

These sessions reach beyond generic "orientations" and target the actual curriculum of individual classes, providing instruction for assignments that bring students to use library resources.

Most instruction takes place in two library spaces, Rooms 273 and 124. Both rooms include a demonstration terminal, and Room 273 also has 20 laptop computers so students can receive instruction using the latest active- and directed-learning techniques. Other information literacy instruction happens in classrooms and laboratories across the campus.

The Information Literacy Instructional program is organized around the Atkins Librarian's liaison UNCC discipline assignments. Each Atkins Librarian publicizes her teaching services to the faculty she serves.



Through reading the following articles, you will see that a student who attends UNC Charlotte from the bachelor's through Ph.D programs receives scaffolded information literacy instruction in every stage of her education.

Atkins Librarians are in agreement with research libraries across the nation by attending to the **Association of College and Research Libraries Information Literacy Competency Standards For Higher Education**.

Foundational Information Literacy Instruction

The Freshman Seminar and First-Year Writing programs received approximately **120 library instruction sessions**, with a total of almost **2400 students** in the 2005-06

academic year. Starting with this foundational program, students receive instruction based on the ACRL Information Literacy Competency Standards.

ACRL Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education

The information literate student is able to:

- Determine the extent of information needed.
- Access the needed information effectively and efficiently.
- Incorporate selected information into one's knowledge base.
- Use information effectively to achieve a specific purpose.
- Understand the economic, social, and legal issues surrounding the use of information, and access and use information ethically and legally.

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Upper-Level Classes and Information Literacy Instruction

After students receive foundational instruction, the Atkins Library teaching faculty work hard to provide students with the research techniques that will help them be successful in their majors.

Quickly finding out that Internet cannot meet all of their research needs, UNC Charlotte students rely heavily on the services of the Atkins Library teaching library faculty.

In the 2005-2006 academic year, almost **130 junior- and senior-level classes (2600 students)** received library instruction, leading them into more rigorous research tasks than in their lower-level courses.

Now students find themselves composing Boolean-operated search strategies in discipline-specific databases.

They also find out how to

reach into citation networks in order to find the key articles and conversants of issues they discover.

Atkins Librarians also frequently create a class-based web page that addresses the library-based needs for those students.

Please see our Class Web Page Database at:

library.uncc.edu/classes/

Information Literacy Instruction Goes To Graduate School

Our program reaches into the Graduate School. At the beginning of each semester, the library is part of the Graduate School Orientation and the Graduate Student Professional Development Program.

One such program is the *Help Me Make It Through The Night*—

Your Guide To Research Techniques session that is taught by one of the Atkins Library teaching faculty.

Other Atkins Librarians are involved in teaching sessions targeted toward graduate classes. In the 2005-2006 academic year, our program reached

45 graduate-level classes and almost **300 students**.

Students in Master's and Doctoral programs in all colleges of the university benefited from this program.

We are on the Web. Please visit us at:

library.uncc.edu/instruction/

Other Information Literacy Instruction Efforts

Students also receive information literacy instruction through various student support agencies, such as *OASES*, *Greek Life*, *the Center for Academic Excellence*, *SAFE*, *Disabilities Services*, and the *Writing Resources Center*. We also avidly work with students and faculty in the *Distance Education* program.

The Atkins Instructional Services program extends to these agencies, and we invite them to connect their students with us, so that we may help students in their efforts for academic success.

Our goals are our students' goals: academic success.

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