

## Davidson Library 101 Survey 2015

For the purposes of this survey, research is defined as investigating a question by engaging with information from multiple sources.

1. In the last 12 months, have you completed a paper, project, or other assignment that required research (as defined above)?
  - Yes
  - No

2. How difficult did you find the following aspects of the research assignment(s)?

	Very Easy	Somewhat Easy	Somewhat Difficult	Very Difficult	N/A
Choosing a topic to research					
Developing a proposal for the project					
Finding sources that inform your topic					
Finding the complete text of an article or book					
Determining which sources are best for your project					
Determining which sources are scholarly					
Incorporating sources into the project					
Knowing when it is appropriate to paraphrase, summarize, or quote from a source					
Knowing how to format your citations					
Keeping track of your sources					
Other (Fill in the Blank)					

3. What search tool do you use the most often to do research?
  - (Fill in the blank)
4. Why do you use this search tool most often?
  - (Fill in the Blank)
5. How fulfilling do you find research (as defined above)?
  - Very Fulfilling
  - Somewhat Fulfilling
  - Not Very Fulfilling
  - Not at all Fulfilling

6. What makes (or would make) research meaningful to you

	Very Meaningful	Somewhat Meaningful	Not Very Meaningful	Not at all Meaningful
The research is accessible to an audience broader than just my instructor				
The final research product is saved and accessible for the future (i.e. portfolio, digitized format, archive, etc.)				
I can use the research to build on my past research and on my current research in other classes				
The topic is related to my life experience and/or personal interests				
The research has an impact on my local community and/or the global community				
The research contributes to my academic or professional success				
I can choose between several options for how I present my research				
Knowing when it is appropriate to paraphrase, summarize, or quote from a source				
The research is collaborative				
Other (Fill in the Blank)				

7. Imagine that you are in a class at Davidson. Your professor has given you the following research project description: Write a ten page paper about how immigration impacts race relations in America. Use your analysis of the text of *Americanah* by Chimamanda Adichie, plus five additional sources to construct the paper. Three of your five sources should be peer-reviewed, and you should use MLA citation style to cite them. The project is due on the last day of classes, December 9.

8. Why does the assignment emphasize peer-reviewed articles? Select all that apply.

Peer reviewed articles:

- Have multiple authors
- Are the norm in academic writing
- Are unbiased sources of information
- Are written by authors with expertise
- Contain in-depth analysis relating to this topic
- Are the sources the professor uses in her research
- Are reliable because they are found in library databases
- Are a method scholars in a field used to communicate with each other

- Are the only sources containing relevant information to this topic
  - Are vetted by other people with expertise in the field
9. Are there types of sources, other than peer-reviewed articles, that would be beneficial to your research project? Select all that apply.
- Blog post
  - Book
  - Book Chapter
  - Book Review
  - Encyclopedia Article
  - Government Document
  - Magazine Article
  - Newspaper Article
  - Tweet
  - Website
  - Wikipedia Entry
  - Other (Fill in the Blank)
10. Why is your professor asking you to use a specific citation style, like MLA? Select all that apply.
- To help your readers to track down the sources you used
  - MLA is your professor's favorite citation style
  - MLA is the proper way to cite your sources in college
  - To give credit to the ideas of others you referenced
  - For the professor to evaluate how detail-oriented you are
11. Imagine the deadline for the paper is quickly approaching. You have found five sources, but you are not satisfied with how well they work in the paper. You feel like you have exhausted all possible search routes. What would you do?
- Use all the sources you found, including the ones you are unsure about
  - Use only the sources that are the best fit, even though that means your total number of sources will be less than five
  - I don't know what I would do in this situation
  - Other: I would do the following: (Fill in the Blank)
12. While you are looking for sources, you encounter a library database you are having trouble using. What would be your preferred method of learning about the database? Select all that apply.
- In-class demonstration
  - One-on-one instruction
  - Watch a video tutorial
  - Complete an interactive online learning module
  - Learn from a peer

13. During your research process, how important is it for you to receive research instruction or guidance at the following times?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Somewhat Unimportant	Not at all Important
As soon as I know about the assignment				
When I'm deciding on a topic				
After I have already chosen a topic and am ready to find the sources				
After I have found some sources				
After I have found the majority of my sources				

14. (Optional question) What are your thoughts or concerns about doing research at Davidson?