

# ---SAMPLE SYLLABUS ONLY---

University of Rhode Island - University Libraries  
LIB 150: Search Strategies for the Information Age  
Summer 2021 | Session 1

**Professor:** Alicia Vaandering, MLIS and MA in History

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**Office:** Carothers Library, Reference Suites, #124

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Class Days/Time:** Asynchronous

## Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we gather as the University of Rhode Island on the traditional land of the Niantic and Narragansett people in past and present, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations. This calls us to commit to continuing to learn how to be better stewards of the land we inhabit as well. (Source: [URI College of Arts & Sciences](#))

## Course Description, Goals, & Outcomes

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### Course Description:

Introduction to the exploration and practice of information literacy and library research concepts and skills, with an emphasis on the communication of information in today's world.

### Course Objectives:

- Students will be able to navigate print and digital information research tools and use them for both college-level research and lifelong learning.
- Students will be able to differentiate information formats and quality and be able to apply these to college-level information research assignments.
- Students will be able to communicate their findings effectively to specific audiences.

### URI General Education Student Learning Outcomes

- Information Literacy
- Communicating Effectively

### Student [IDEA](#) Learning Outcomes

#### Essential

- Learning how to find, evaluate, and use resources to explore a topic in-depth
- Developing skill in expressing oneself orally or in writing

#### Importance

- Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view
- Acquiring skills in working with others a member of a team

### Strategies for Success

This class requires you to apply and reflect on the content introduced in course readings, lectures, and class discussions. To be successful in this course, you should:

- Read, watch, and apply all course content located in our class Brightspace site.
- Complete all assignments in accordance with requirements, in detail, and on time.
- Ask questions and engage with your peers and professor.
- Proactively seek assistance from professor, university student services, or IT Help Desk when facing learning or technological barriers.

## Required Materials

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### **Required Reading:**

There is no required textbook for this course. Course materials will be posted to the Brightspace site. These “reading” materials will include articles, videos, PowerPoint presentations, and websites; and they should be completed before we meet as a class to explore and discuss the content.

### **Required Technology:**

You must have access to a computer, your URI email, and our course Brightspace site. Course communications will be sent out via Brightspace (Announcements and/or Messages), and you will be responsible for keeping up to date by visiting the course Brightspace site and checking your email daily.

## Assignments, Projects, & Grading Policies

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### **Assignments & Projects**

Your grade will be determined based on the following components. *Each assignment and project has a corresponding rubric available in Brightspace that you should use to guide you to success.*

#### ***Discussions - 20%***

Each week you will be responsible for writing two original posts and responding substantively to two peers’ responses. Your posts and responses should incorporate content from your readings and/or reflect upon past and current research practices and experiences. You may respond to discussion posts in writing, recorded videos, or recorded audio.

#### ***Skills Exercises (5) - 25%***

Five skills exercises will be assigned throughout the course. These offer you an opportunity to practice and receive feedback on your application of important skills and concepts from this course. These exercises will be essential building blocks for the completion of the class projects.

#### ***Database Information Solutions Project - 20%***

In this project, you will identify and model how to use a URI Libraries database that would meet the information needs of a target audience in a scenario that you have chosen. The project consists of a recorded 8-10 minute presentation and an annotated bibliography entry.

#### ***Beyond the News Project - 35%***

Ever wonder “and what else..?” when you read a news article? For this project, each student will find inspiration in a current event, hot topic, or global issue from a news source and use this inspiration to guide further academic research. This project has five parts: Topic Proposal,

Annotated Bibliography of Sources, Presentation of Research (8-minute recorded presentation), Research Reflection, and Listening Evaluations.

### Assignment Submission Guidelines

- All graded assignments and projects should be turned in via Brightspace Assignments. If you are having trouble uploading your assignment (i.e. Brightspace issues), get in touch with me ahead of time and we will make arrangements.
- Assignments should be submitted in .doc, .docx, .pdf, or .rtf (rich text) format. Do **not** submit assignments in pages format or as links to Google Docs. Recorded videos may be submitted in MPG, MPEG, RM, MP3, MP4, M4V, M4A, AVI, WAV, RAM, ASF, or MOV format (these are the formats accepted by Brightspace).
- All information sources used in this class **MUST** be accessible in full-text through the URI Library or online so that I can look at the source while grading your work.

### Grading Scale

Your grade will be based on an A-F scale. Grades for all criteria and the Final Grade will be given on the following standard scale:

<b>A</b>	93-100
<b>A-</b>	90-92
<b>B+</b>	87-89
<b>B</b>	83-86
<b>B-</b>	80-82
<b>C+</b>	77-79
<b>C</b>	73-76
<b>C-</b>	70-72
<b>D+</b>	67-69
<b>D</b>	60-66
<b>F</b>	59 and below

### Due Date Policy

All work should be submitted by the specified deadlines communicated in the syllabus and on Brightspace. **LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT RECEIVE FULL CREDIT.** The following late penalties will be applied to your grade, *if you have not discussed an extension with me in advance*:

- 1 day late = marked down 10%
- 2 days late = marked down 20%
- 3 days late = marked down 30%
- 4 days late or more = NO CREDIT

Some extensions may be granted if you contact me twenty-four hours in advance with a valid reason for the extension. However, an extension is not guaranteed, and you should make every effort to make sure you complete your work by its assigned due date.

## Expectations and Accommodations

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### **Expectations for Our Virtual Classroom**

Students should be courteous and respectful to fellow students and the professor when interacting in discussion boards, emails, or other methods of communication.

For more information on standards of behavior at URI, please see the “Student Code of Conduct” in the [University Student Handbook](#).

### **Academic Honesty:**

All submitted work must be your own. If you consult other sources (class readings, articles or books from the library, articles available through internet databases, or websites), they **MUST** be properly documented using the APA Manual, 7th edition, or you will be charged with plagiarism and receive an F on the assignment. In some cases, this may result in a failure of the course as well. In addition, the charge of academic dishonesty will go on your record in the Office of Student Life. If you have any doubt about what constitutes plagiarism, visit the following websites: the URI Student Handbook, and Sections 8.27.10 – 8.27.21 of the University Manual ([web.uri.edu/manual/](http://web.uri.edu/manual/)). If you read this, please email me a picture of your pet or your favorite animal and tell me if you took the picture or share the URL of where you got the picture. You’ll get an extra credit point added to your semester grade if you submit this by January 29th.

### **Respect for Diversity:**

It is my intent that learners from all backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course. The diverse perspectives and experiences that we bring to this class are a resource, strength, and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity in gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, culture, perspective, and other background characteristics. Your suggestions about how to improve the value of diversity in this course are encouraged and appreciated. Please feel welcome to discuss suggestions with me privately or [to submit feedback anonymously](#). (Statement adapted from the [University of Iowa’s School of Education](#).)

If you are a target or a witness of a bias incident, you are encouraged to submit a report to the URI Bias Response Team at [www.uri.edu/brt](http://www.uri.edu/brt). There you will also find additional people and resources.

### **Accommodation for Special Needs:**

Any student with a documented disability is welcome to contact me as early in the semester as possible so that we may arrange reasonable accommodations. As part of this process, please be in touch with Disability Services for Students (DSS) at 330 Memorial Union, 401-874-2098. You can also email Disability Services for Students at [dss@etal.uri.edu](mailto:dss@etal.uri.edu).

### **Academic Enhancement Center:**

AEC offers free face to face and web-based services to undergraduate students seeking academic support. The Writing Center offers peer tutoring focused on supporting undergraduate writers at any stage of a writing assignment. Complete details, up-to-date schedules, contact information and self-service study resources are all available on the [AEC website](#).

## When life throws you a curve ball:

URI has resources available to support you if you need it! Here is a short list:

- Rhody Outpost Food Pantry provides a variety of food items, along with toiletries and cleaning supplies. Call 401-874-2098 or email [dsooutreach@etal.uri.edu](mailto:dsooutreach@etal.uri.edu).
- Dean of Students offers resources to help you navigate and succeed in college, even when your outside life is challenging. Call 401-874-2098 or find [more contact info here](#).
- URI Counseling Center provides confidential support. Call 401-874-2288 or [learn more here](#).

## Course Schedule

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\*Note that all course readings are posted in Brightspace.

*Initial discussion post due Thursdays @ 11:59 p.m. All other discussion posts and responses due Sundays @11:59 p.m.*

### Week 1:

#### Readings

*Start Here!*

*Information Concepts*

*Information Ethics*

*Research as Inquiry*

**Due Thursday, May 27 @11:59 p.m.**

- [Syllabus Critique](#)

**Due Sunday, May 30 @11:59 p.m.**

- [Skills 1](#)

*Initial discussion post due Thursday @ 11:59 p.m. All other discussion posts and responses due Sunday @11:59 p.m.*

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### Week 2:

#### Readings

*APA Workshop*

*Evaluating Sources*

*Authority & Information Creation*

*Annotated Bibliographies*

*Catalogs*

**Due Thursday, June 3 @11:59 p.m.**

- [Skills 2](#)

**Due Sunday, June 6 @11:59 p.m.**

- [Skills 3](#)

*Initial discussion post due Thursday @ 11:59 p.m. All other discussion posts and responses due Sunday @11:59 p.m.*

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### Week 3:

#### Readings

*Databases*

*Reading Scholarly Articles*

*Identifying an Audience*

*Database Solutions Project assignment guides and rubrics*

**Due Thursday, June 10 @11:59 p.m.**

- [Skills 4](#)

**Due Sunday, June 13 @11:59 p.m.**

- Database Solutions Project: Presentation & Annotated Bibliography Entry

*Initial discussion post due Thursday @ 11:59 p.m. All other discussion posts and responses due Sunday @11:59 p.m.*

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**Week 4:**

Readings

*The Internet and Online Searching*

*News Literacy*

*Beyond the News Project assignment guides and rubrics*

**Due Thursday, June 17 @11:59 p.m.**

- Beyond the News Topic Proposal

**Due Sunday, June 20 @11:59 p.m.**

- Skills 5

*Initial discussion post due Thursday @ 11:59 p.m. All other discussion posts and responses due Sunday @11:59 p.m.*

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**Week 5:**

Readings

*None*

**Due Thursday, June 24 @11:59 p.m.**

- Beyond the News Presentation
- Beyond the News Annotated Bibliography

**Due Saturday, June 26 @11:59 p.m.**

- Listening Evaluations
- Research Reflection

*Initial discussion post due Thursday @ 11:59 p.m. All other discussion posts and responses due Sunday @11:59 p.m.*