

Research Skills

of New Students @ Middlebury

What can faculty expect of first-year students when it comes to library research skills? For the past few years, the library has surveyed the incoming class. In some cases, students are aware that they need to learn more. But often, when students are placed in an academic context, their perceptions do not match their demonstrated knowledge and skills.

63% of students say they're capable of revising their searches to get better results. 20% of students demonstrate an understanding of how to do this.



ONLINE SEARCHING

59% of students say they're able to determine whether a source is appropriate. 39% of students understand the difference between scholarly journals and popular magazines.



SCHOLARLY JOURNALS

CITING SOURCES



49% of students admit they don't know when to document a source.

HOW TO DO RESEARCH



45% of students say they don't know where to begin looking for academic sources.

Assessments of student research skills are based on a survey performed in 2017

Because many library databases are designed for experienced scholars, it can be difficult for new researchers to use them effectively. Librarians can help students acquire the skills they need to fully engage with academic research.

What can you do?

- Schedule an in-class workshop with your liaison librarian
- Include your librarian's name in your syllabus
- Refer students to your librarian in class

Learn more at:

go.middlebury.edu/libinstruction

We look forward to working with you!