

Graduate Studies Committee

Monthly Library Report

Date: September 12, 2024

Graduate Student Orientation

Two of our Liaison Librarians – Kaelan Caspary (Science & Data) and Kate Gibbings (Engineering and Applied Science) represented the Library at the Graduate Student orientation and engaged with over 200 students. It was a great opportunity to share targeted and introductory information, such as:

- How to access library resources
- How long can you borrow / access things for
- Questions about the Library space
- Follow up questions about support from the subject librarian (one they learned that they have one)

Supports for graduate students include:

- Research consultations with librarians regarding search strategies for graduate research papers and theses, using specialized databases rather than a generic Omni search
- Requests for items from other university libraries through the Omni option to "Get it from another library" or through our Interlibrary Loan service

Knowledge Synthesis supports.

Our librarians field many in depth questions and research consultations from graduate students about knowledge synthesis processes, including identifying the type of review they are conducting, the steps and stages of these types of reviews, developing search strategies, and translating and running searches.

Chelsie Lalonde (Social Science & Humanities, Education Librarian) and Lydia Thorne (Health Sciences Librarian) are developing a Canvas Catalog course, *Library Research Skills for Knowledge Synthesis*, in partnership with Dr Ginny

Brunton to support her graduate course where students conduct a brief systematic review over the semester. The Canvas Catalog course is comprised of 3 modules that are related to research related aspects of these types of research: Module 1: Planning the Review, Module 2: Identifying Studies & Other Sources, and Module 3: Managing & Documenting Results. Examples and exercises throughout the modules are multidisciplinary and include examples in many subject areas. It is anticipated to be launched in Spring 2024.

Graduate instruction anecdote:

For the FEAS Graduate Seminar courses ENGR 5003/6003 and ENGR 5007/6007, Kate added content on Generative AI search tools to the section on databases for Engineering research. Topics included a comparison of traditional research databases and selected Gen AI search tools, ethical considerations, evaluation criteria, and a poll on what features students value most in scholarly literature search tools.

Mark your calendars! Science Literacy Week is October 28 – November 1.

Our planning team has designed engaging programming for this week. More details to follow in the coming weeks.

Highlights include an “easy” book club with recommended popular science books addressing diversity in STEM, a trivia contest, and a pop up at the Destress desk on Wed., Oct. 30 with coffee, books, and an activity.