

Off the Shelf

March 2018

The Pennsylvania Institute of Technology Library Newsletter

Volume 13, Number 3

Did you know?

March is Women's History Month.

Check out the display of materials on women's history in the Library.

March 8th is International Women's Day.

On March 4, 1917, Jeannette Rankin was sworn in as the 1st female member of the U.S. Congress representing Montana.



On March 4, 1933, Frances Perkins became United States Secretary of Labor, & the 1st female member of the U.S. Cabinet.

Lilia Ann Abron, chemical engineer, was born on March 8, 1945. She was the 1st African American woman to earn a Ph.D. in chemical engineering.



Sunday, March 11th is the start of Daylight Saving Time. Remember to turn your clocks FORWARD one hour on

Saturday night before you go to bed!

Lucy Hobbs Taylor, born on March 14, 1833, became the 1st American woman to graduate from dental school (Ohio College of Dental Surgery in 1866).

On March 17, 1917, Loretta Perfectus Walsh became the 1st woman to join the navy & the 1st woman to officially join the military in a role other than a nurse.

On March 31, 1888, the National Council of Women of the U.S. is organized by Susan B. Anthony, Clara Barton, Julia Ward Howe, & Sojourner Truth, & others. It is the oldest non-sectarian women's organization in the U.S.

On March 25, 1911, fire erupted inside the Triangle Shirtwaist Company factory in New York City killing 123 young women employed as low-paid seamstresses, along with 23 men. About 50 victims jumped to their deaths rather than perish from the flames. The tragedy spurred national interest regarding the rights of mostly-immigrant women workers of the New York garment industry who labored long hours 6-7 days a week in dangerous conditions for about \$5 weekly pay.

Library Trivia



The 1st two female Supreme Court justices were born in March. Who are they & when were they born?

Library Hours

Monday	8:30 am – 5:00 pm
Tuesday	8:30 am – 5:00 pm
Wednesday	8:30 am – 5:00 pm
Thursday	9:30 am – 6:00 pm
Friday	8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Online Catalog: <http://pitcat.pit.edu>

WORDS OF WISDOM

"Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the husbands. Remember all men would be tyrants if they could. If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice, or representation."

~ Abigail Adams
First Lady &
women's rights advocate

Interested in joining Phi Theta Kappa?



Keep your eyes on the [P.I.T. Facebook page](#) for an announcement about informational meetings. Mr. Whitehead & Ms. Anderman will discuss the specific requirements & procedures to join. It is VITAL that you attend one of these meetings so that we can plan appropriately for the induction ceremony.

PRIMARY ELECTION REMINDER!

Primary election day is Tuesday, May 15, 2018 & it is rapidly approaching. If you are eligible to vote but have not registered yet, you have until April 16th to do so. Paper registration forms are available in the Library or you can use any of the computers to register online at: <https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/VoterRegistrationApplication.aspx>. Ms. Anderman is available to assist

you with the online registration. When they are not busy in class, some Phi Theta Kappa, Alpha Psi Mu chapter members may also be available to assist you in the Library. Remember...



MORE WORDS OF WISDOM

"Voting is the most precious right of every citizen, and we have a moral obligation to ensure the integrity of our voting process."

~ Hillary Clinton



March is National Women's History Month

(Reprinted from the National Women's History Project)

In 1987 the US Congress designated March as National Women's History Month. This creates a special opportunity in our schools, our workplaces, & our communities to recognize & celebrate the often-overlooked achievements of American women. Each year there is a special Theme & women whose lives exemplify that theme are selected as National Honorees.

NEVERTHELESS SHE PERSISTED:
Honoring Women Who Fight All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

The 2018 National Women's History theme presents the opportunity to honor women who have shaped America's history & its future through their tireless commitment to ending discrimination against women & girls. The theme embodies women working together with strength, tenacity & courage to overcome obstacles & achieve joyful accomplishments.

Throughout this year, we honor fifteen outstanding women for their unrelenting & inspirational persistence, & for understanding that, by fighting all forms of discrimination against women & girls, they have shaped America's history & our future. Their lives demonstrate the power of voice, of persistent action, & of believing that meaningful & lasting change is possible in our democratic society. Through this theme we celebrate women fighting not only against sexism, but also against the many intersecting forms of discrimination faced by American women including discrimination based on race & ethnicity, class, disability, sexual orientation, veteran status, & many other categories. From spearheading legislation against segregation to leading the reproductive justice movement, our 2018 honorees are dismantling the structural, cultural, & legal forms of discrimination that for too long have plagued American women.

In addition to National & Community Honorees we recognize the ongoing persistence of our mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, neighbors, & friends. We hope you will join us in celebrating all women this month & throughout the year.

Nevertheless She Persisted: This phrase was born in February 2017 when Senator Elizabeth Warren, D-MA, was silenced during Jeff Sessions' confirmation hearing for Attorney General. At the time, Warren was reading an opposition letter penned by Coretta Scott King (a past NWHP honoree) in 1986. Referring to the incident, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-KY, later said "Senator Warren was giving a lengthy speech. She had appeared to violate the rule. She was warned. She was given an explanation. **Nevertheless She Persisted.**" Feminists immediately adopted the phrase in hashtags & memes to refer to any strong women who refuse to be silenced.

Fighting all forms of discrimination against women takes persistence. The 2018 honorees have all gotten the message to stop, either directly or indirectly, yet they have all continued to fight & succeeded in bringing positive change to the lives of diverse American women.

To read the biographies of this year's honorees, go to:

<http://www.nwhp.org/2018-theme-honorees/>

☞ MORE WORDS OF WISDOM ☞

"Men are afraid that women will laugh at them. Women are afraid that men will kill them." ~ attributed to Margaret Atwood



Got a research paper to write? Friend a librarian

The winter term is well underway. Mid-terms are rapidly approaching. Those end-of-the-term deadlines are not quite as distant as you think. More than likely, your to-do list includes at least one research paper.

Ah, college research papers -- most students need at least two, if not four years, to learn out how to accomplish them quickly & accurately (especially through sleepless nights with family & jobs or caffeine jitters).

But you do have a secret weapon available. What is your secret weapon? Actually, that should be: *Who* is your secret weapon? **P.I.T.'s Librarian** (aka: the Director of the Library).

No, seriously. Here are some reasons why:

- ❖ **She can help get you started, even if you don't understand your topic.**

As soon as you get a research paper assignment or any research project, stop by the Library & ask for help. Reference services can be an underutilized resource for one-on-one individualized help. If you're not on campus, you can call me (610-892-1524) or even email me (landerman@pit.edu or library@pit.edu). Don't forget that you can also use the [Ask-a-Librarian form](#), too.

Understanding the assignment is half the battle. I often work with students to assist them with either narrowing their research topic or broadening it. A topic that is too narrow won't produce enough results for the student to write their paper & a topic that is too broad can easily overwhelm the student with thousands (or hundreds of thousands) of results.

- ❖ **Librarians are Google experts (and experts on what Google does NOT have).**

Let's get this straight: Most reference librarians do not hate Google. We just get frustrated

when students assume the 1st hit is a reliable source.

If used correctly, search engines like Google can be beneficial. Plus, Google offers more advanced search options, like Google Scholar & Google Books. A reference librarian can show students how to use them.

Googling is not a cause for dismay. I don't know anyone who doesn't use Google for some research; but in 2017, it's still the case that reference books & scholarly articles from academic journals provide the most authoritative information on most topics. Many of these resources are now in electronic formats within the various databases that the Library provides for your research.

But when you use Google, students (& faculty) need to take a hard look at the sources of the information they retrieve.

Think of your sources as your expert witnesses: if you were in court & your expert witness showed up in jeans & flip-flops... do you think the jury would be impressed? Select your expert witnesses with an eye on not just what they say, but on the impression they'll make on your audience.

And don't think that being tech savvy alone makes you a good researcher. A cook can be amazingly adept with the gadgets found in today's kitchens, but still whip up horribly tasting meals. It's very easy to conduct awful information searches, yet still be quite proficient with technology.

- ❖ **We have access to information you didn't even know existed.**

P.I.T. Library, like most college libraries, provides our students with access to a wide variety of online resources which include electronic books, journal articles, videos, & numerous other information sources. The Librarian can help you determine which ones to use & how they work.

You need to understand that research is like being a detective. Just looking is not enough. To solve the case you need to look in the best places for the clues. Then you need to analyze the results to make sure you have solved the case.

☞ MORE WORDS OF WISDOM ☞

"We do not need magic to change the world, we carry all the power we need inside ourselves already: we have the power to imagine better." ~ J.K. Rowling



Library Printer Etiquette:

Keep these things in mind & make printer use more pleasant for everyone:

1. **Computers** are set to **print automatically** to the printer located on the **same side** of the Library but check the other printer if your document isn't at the printer where you "thought" you sent it.
2. **Print what you need, but need what you print.**
 - Remember that you can **email articles** from the database to yourself or **save/download articles** to your USB drive, "H" drive folder, or a cloud account. Just print the articles you are sure you need printed.
 - **Printing a PowerPoint presentation?** Please remember to **use the "handouts" format** instead of "full page slides" format. *Ask for help* if you are not sure how to do this.
 - **Printing a PowerPoint or PDF document?** Please send these documents to the **printer called "Library2."** (The printer "Library" is too old to handle these documents.)
 - Look for the **"print page"** button on the webpage or highlight what you need & choose **"selection"** on the print command window.
 - Do **NOT** hit print over & over if your document hasn't printed. Wait for the printer to complete all jobs. Your document should be in the group. Remember to check both printers.
 - Place any pages you don't need, *from your print-out*, on the scrap paper stack. Don't throw away usable paper.
3. **Find a print-out** that is **not yours?** Leave it on the table or printer.
 - **Do not take it.**
 - **Do not throw it away.**
 - **Do not tear it up.**
 - If you **accidentally walk away** with **someone else's printout**, **return it to the printer table** where you picked it up.
4. **Print jobs** are **completed** in the **order the printer received** them.

▪ **The printer doesn't know that you are more important than everyone else.**

5. Remember to pick up your printout & take it with you. (We really don't need any more scrap paper!)
6. **Ask the Librarian for help** if there is a problem.

Hint: Tray 3 in the big printer is ALWAYS empty!

Reminder: Printer services are provided to support your educational needs!

Thank you for your cooperation! ☺

☞ MORE WORDS OF WISDOM ☞

"Perhaps no place in any community is so totally democratic as the town library. The only entrance requirement is interest."

~ Lady Bird Johnson

New on the Shelf



P.I.T. Library has recently added the following titles:

BOOKS

Bara, Mike. *The Choice: Using Conscious Thought and Physics of the Mind to Reshape the World.* BF 1999 .B3748147 2011

Brinkley, Alan. *John F. Kennedy.* E 841 .B734 2012

Cain, Susan. *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking.* BF 698.35 .I59 C35 2012

Caro, Robert A. *The Years of Lyndon Johnson: The Passage of Power.* E 846 .C37 2013

Darwish, Nonie. *Cruel and Usual Punishment: The Terrifying Global Implications of Islamic Law.* KBP 173.25 .D37 2008

Everett, Marshall. *Wreck and Sinking of the Titanic: The Ocean's Greatest Disaster.* G 530 .T6 E84 2011

Fanthorpe, Lionel. *The Oak Island Mystery: The World's Greatest Treasure Hunt.* F 1039 .O35 F35 2012

Foreman, Amanda. *A World on Fire: Britain's Crucial Role in the American Civil War.* E 469 .F67 2012

Gubar, Susan. *Rooms of our Own.* HQ 1190 .G82 2006

Haley, Nikki. *Can't Is Not an Option: My American Story.* F 275.42 .H35 A3 2012

Harari, Yuval Noah. *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind.* CB 113 .H4 H3713 2015

Johnston, David Cay. *The Fine Print: How Big Companies Use "Plain English" to Rob You Blind.* HF 5681.I7 J64 2013

Kraft, Heidi Squier. *Rule Number Two: Lessons I Learned in a Combat Hospital.* DS 79.76 .K73 2012

Kranish, Michael. *Trump Revealed: An American Journey of Ambition, Ego, Money, and Power.* E 901.1 .T78 K73 2016

Lamb, Lee. *Oak Island Family: The Restall Hunt for Buried Treasure.* F 1039.5 .O15 L36 2012

Lee, Bandy. *The Dangerous Case of Donald Trump: 27 Psychiatrists and Mental Health Experts Assess a President.* E 913.3 .D36 2017

Lovejoy, Paul E. *Transformations in Slavery: A History of Slavery in Africa.* HT 1321 .L68 2012

Mesoudi, Alex. *Cultural Evolution: How Darwinian Theory Can Explain Human Culture & Synthesize the Social Sciences.* HM 626 .M486 2011

Micklos, David A. *DNA Science: A First Course.* QH 506 .M54 2003

Mundy, Liza. *Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II.* D 810 .C88 M86 2017

Parfitt, Tudor. *Black Jews in Africa and the Americas.* DS 79.76 .K73 2012

Porch, Douglas. *The Path to Victory: The Mediterranean Theater in World War II.* D 766 .P67 2004

Rather, Dan. *What Unites Us: Reflections on Patriotism.* JK 1759 .R35 2018

Salisbury, Jim. *The Rotation: A Season With the Phillies and One of the Greatest Pitching Staffs Ever Assembled.* GV 871 .S24 2012

Shields, Johanna Nicol. *American Freedom in a Slave Society: Stories from the Antebellum South.* F 214 .S55 2012

Sobel, Dava. *Galileo's Daughter: A Historical Memoir of Science, Faith, and Love.* QB 36 .G2 S65 1999

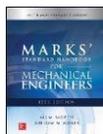
Szalavitz, Maia. *Unbroken Brain: A Revolutionary New Way of Understanding Addiction*.
RC 564 .S975 2016

Traub, David S. *Searching for Philadelphia: The Concealed City*.
NA 735 .P5 T73 2013

Wolff, Michael. *Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House*.
E 913 .W65 2018

☞ **MORE WORDS OF WISDOM** ☞

“There are many little ways to enlarge your child’s world. Love of books is the best of all.”
~ Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis



The Newest Edition of Marks' Standard Handbook is Available on [AccessEngineering!](#)

The 100th anniversary edition of the cornerstone text of mechanical engineering has been fully revised to focus on the core subjects critical to the discipline. Featuring contributions from more than 160 global experts, [Marks' Standard Handbook for Mechanical Engineers, 12th ed.](#), provides clear, concise answers to thousands of mechanical engineering questions.

All-new sections including **Applied Mechanics, Engineering Ethics, Digital Control Systems, Sensor and Actuators, Vehicle Electrification and Hybridization, & Nondestructive Testing.**

☞ **MORE WORDS OF WISDOM** ☞

“It’s believing in those dreams and facing our fears head on that allows us to live our lives beyond our limits... Our borders and our obstacles can only do two things: (1) stop us in our tracks, or (2) force us to get creative.”
~ Amy Purdy



Current & Upcoming Library Displays!

For March, the Library’s display focuses on Women’s History Month. This includes the roles of women throughout history, particularly American history. You’ll find resources on more distant events & people, as well as recent events & people. In April, our focus will be a surprise, but it will be a response to one of the questions that I deal with as a librarian.

Print and/or video resources that are included in the display are usually from the P.I.T. Library collection & most can be checked out. Just ask Lynea for assistance. If you have suggestions for future display topics, feel free to email Lynea at: landerma@pit.edu.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES @ P.I.T. Library!



The Library provides access to an array of online databases accessing full text books, journal articles, reference materials, pamphlets & other print material; plus graphic or video materials when available.

I continue to review additional databases, so keep watching for announcements of new databases to support your research.

For **EASIEST ACCESS TO THE DATABASES**: click on the link found on the “[Online Library](#)” website. The databases listed below are those that the Library subscribes to on your behalf. They are excellent tools for your research.

Academic OneFile: any subjects – primarily full-text articles from journals, magazines, newspapers, books; plus video & audio.

AccessEngineering: engineering and related subjects – hundreds of full-text books including major handbooks, multimedia, global engineering news, & more.

AccessPhysiotherapy: physical therapy & related subjects – numerous full-text PT textbooks, multimedia, integrated drug database, & more.

AccessScience: any science subject – full-text journal articles & full-text from reference materials.

Encyclopædia Britannica Online: any subject. This is the full-text of the encyclopedia plus limited full-text journal articles.

Ferguson’s Career Guidance Center: comprehensive full-text career resources.

Gale Biography in Context: full-text biographical information from a variety of resources including academic journal, book excerpts, video, audio, etc.

Gale Virtual Reference Library: full-text ebooks on a range of subjects.

Health and Wellness Resource Center with Alternative Health Module: medical & health subjects – full text reference materials & journal articles, plus video resources.

Jstor: any subjects – many full-text journal articles (Trial database)

Merriam-Webster Unabridged Dictionary: largest & most comprehensive American dictionary.

Nursing Resource Center: supports nursing students & faculty; results reflect the “nursing process” – full text reference materials, textbooks, journal articles, & video resources.

Proquest Ebook Complete: full-text ebooks on any topic.

Small Business Resource Center: supports business students & faculty; focusing particularly on small business & entrepreneurship – full text reference materials, business plans, journal articles, & websites.

All electronic resources can be accessed on campus & most can be accessed from home using the passwords available from the Librarian. Instructions & training are available from Lynea for anyone who is interested in using these databases, including faculty & staff groups or individuals. It’s never too late to ask for assistance! Quick start guides or searching tip sheets for these databases are available on the Library’s online Research & Subject Guides & in the Library.

☞ **MORE WORDS OF WISDOM** ☞

“All I can say is I am sensitive to discrimination on any basis because I have experienced that upset.”
~ Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Library Trivia Answer



Ruth Bader Ginsburg, was born on March 15, 1933. She was the 2nd female U.S. Supreme Court Justice (appointed in 1993).

Sandra Day O’Connor, was born on March 26, 1930. She was the 1st female U.S. Supreme Court Justice (appointed in 1981).



☞ **MORE WORDS OF WISDOM** ☞

“I think the important thing about my appointment is not that I will decide cases as a woman, but that I am a woman who will get to decide cases.”
~ Sandra Day O’Connor



Protect Yourself from Fake News



Does the headline sound unrealistic? Don't believe everything you read.



Check the URL. Does it have any odd suffixes or substitutions?



Check the author's credentials. Skip anonymous news reports.



Make sure the headline and/or picture matches the content.



Consult and compare competing sources.



Fact check stories with sites like Snopes, Politico, and Politifact.



Dig deeper. Follow up on cited sources and quotes.



Beware online "filter bubbles" that show you only items that are similar to items you have liked.



Be open-minded. Ask questions.

Research Life Savers



Searching the Internet can be a little scary – ok, maybe overwhelming is a better word. There are so many websites & you can get thousands for each subject you may be interested in. The following tips on how to start your Internet search, & keep track of your research should life a little easier.

Google is NOT the only search engine out there.

Although it's the most popular search engine today, Google is not the only place to try & find your information. Look for a search engine that will help you locate exactly what you need. Visit www.internettutorials.net/ for information about how to make the best use of the web including a list of many different search engines & what they do.

Think about what you want before you start your search.

Most people dive right in & start surfing & searching when they are

researching. Unfortunately, this search style often doesn't provide great results & it leads to frustration. Before you start, think about your topic & what you want to find. Jot down some key subject terms or words. Use these words in your search. Enclose phrases or proper names in parentheses, link terms that must appear in the results with AND, or use OR between alternate terms.

Make notes!

Make note of the search terms you use & combine. Cut & paste your searches into Word or jot them down on paper. Note which terms worked & which didn't. This helps you avoid repeating searches unnecessarily.

Right clicking is your best friend!!

Sometimes when we explore websites, we can get so lost, it's almost impossible to return to the search page. Before you cruise around your results, use a right-click of the mouse on the link. This will provide the option to "Open Link in a New Window" or "Open Link in a New Tab." Select the one that works for you & surf away. When you are done, close that window or tab & your search results are still there!

Print only what you need.

You may be tempted to hit Print every time you find a site that might work. But how many times have you found that half of the work is cut off at the side of the page, you end up with ads all over your printout, or there are blank pages? There are a few options to avoid this, print only what you want, & save some paper too. First, look for the "Printer Friendly" option – this generally opens another window or page, eliminating the ads & side bars, & only gives you the text. Second, use the "Print Preview" option under "File" to see how the page will look when you print it – if there are blank pages, set the options to print only what you need. Finally, if you need only one paragraph, use the mouse to highlight the text, open the "Print" menu under "File," & choose the option for "Print Selection."

These are just a few tips to get you searching more effectively & efficiently. Give it a try; you may be surprised at how easy things will start becoming -- especially more complex searches.

MORE WORDS OF WISDOM

"A library is the only single place you can go to learn something new, be comforted, terrified, thrilled, saddened, overjoyed, or excited all in one day. And for free."

~ Amy Neftzger



READ,
or we
feed you
to the
lions

Lions 82 ; Non-readers 0

From the Director's Shelf...



The last few weeks have been quite confusing when it comes to the weather: warm, followed by nearly hot, then cold...rainy and snow, snow, snow! The good news is that doing research for your classes (or personal interest) does not have to be so confusing. You have access to your own personal research maven.

I am available to assist you with your research process, whether for a term paper or some other project. If you need help getting started with your research, come talk to me about it & I'll help you figure out how to get started – which resources you should start out using. If you've done some research, but now don't know how to move on, come talk to me. We'll review what you've done so far & then we'll consider the options that you still have available to you.

Don't forget that "come talk to me" means several things. You are very welcome to come to the Library to see me for assistance, but you can also call me (610-892-1524), email me (landeraman@pit.edu or library@pit.edu), or even use our Ask a Librarian [form](#). You don't have to be on campus to get my help!

When you are ready to type up your paper, you can use the computers in the Library, if you wish. I'm also available to assist you with the correct

layout for your paper & to assist you with using the correct citation formats for your assignment.

Don't be scared off by your assignments. Come to the Library & ask questions. Make use of the vast array of resources that are available to you to support your research & education.

Still confused or have questions about anything related to the Library? The Director of the Library, Lynea Anderman, is available to assist by phone (610-892-1524), [e-form](mailto:landerman@pit.edu), email (landerman@pit.edu or library@pit.edu), or fax (610-892-1523) -- or just stop by the Library to speak to me.

Lynea @yourlibrary

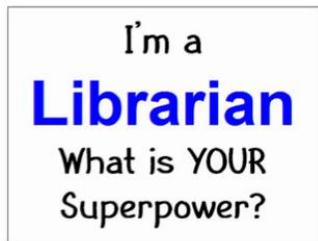


Spoken here

See: Lynea Anderman

OR Mark Whitehead

Have questions about either organization? Contact us...



MORE WORDS OF WISDOM

"Don't mess with librarians. It never ends well. Except for the librarians."

~Rachel Maddow

Why is a Database Better Than the Internet for Research?

A search engine is like a huge dump or landfill, as big & as deep as Lake Ontario. It is filled with trash & treasure, but it is up to us, who are searching for the treasure, to sort through & look at everything in order to find the valuable stuff.

On the other hand, databases are like a huge warehouse, as big & as tall as the Empire State building, with as many floors. These floors contain shelving for magazines, newspapers, transcripts, etc. All are in chronological order for the past 20 or so years. You go in the front door, pay your money (or the Library pay's its money for you), hand your topic to one of the staff of little Yodas. They then go combing through every floor, every shelf, every resource, & return within 30 seconds

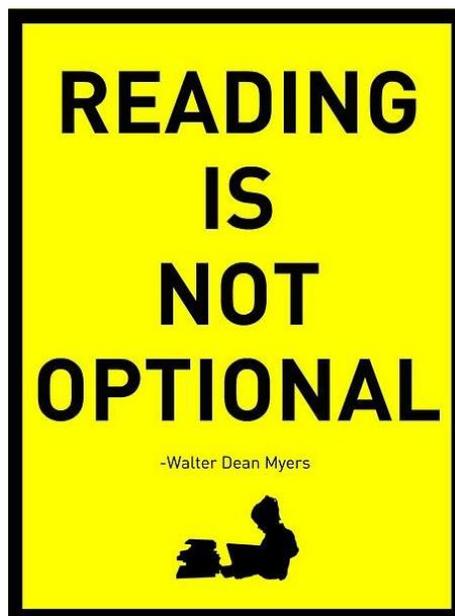
with every article & reference to your topic.

The resources in databases have already been "vetted" & are, therefore, more reliable than many resources available on the internet. The internet is the "Wild Wild West" of information. HOWEVER, remember that all information is sorted through our own or someone else's biases & opinions. Everyone must use multiple resources in order to evaluate the authority & veracity of all information.

MORE WORDS OF WISDOM

"A ship in port is safe, but that's not what ships are built for."

~ Rear Admiral Grace Hopper



The Library and the Internet: Ten Good Reasons to Use the Library

So you have to write a paper on the pros & cons of hoogeewatzits vs. widgets. You've always just gone on the web & used Google to find information before. Why should you bother using library resources? Here are ten good reasons why:

1. Not everything is on the Internet.

There is a lot of useful information out there on the web. Unfortunately, this often leads to the misconception that everything you need to know can be found online. This simply isn't true. There are tons of published materials (books, articles, videos, music, etc.) that you won't find using a standard search engine like Google or Yahoo. And even when you do find them, your access may be limited (see #2 below.)

2. Not everything on the Internet is free.

Much of the web consists of subscription services that make you pay if you want to get into their website or download their stuff. Before you go & spend your hard-earned money on these services, check out the library's website. We've already paid for many of these services for you.

3. The Internet is not very organized.

How many times have you searched for something on the web & got a list of 1.5 million web pages? How are you supposed to make sense of that? Does searching the web feel like looking for a needle in a haystack? Well, library resources, unlike the web, are organized by topic & broken down into different types of information (books, articles, databases, etc.) Library resources have been organized by real people, not by search engine robots.

4. There is no quality control on the Internet.

The internet is full of lies, misconceptions, & half-truths. Almost anyone with a computer can put up a website, & they don't have to know what they're talking about. Some sites will deliberately mislead you, in order to get your money, change your opinion on a controversial issue, or just to pull your leg. Hoax sites are all over the place, & they often look real. Did you see the one about the dangerous effects of [Dihydrogen Monoxide](#)? While some of the effects are real, Dihydrogen Monoxide is not the dangerous chemical that the website implies. Library resources, on the other hand, have mostly been through editors & fact-checkers who make sure you're getting (relatively) reliable information.

5. Sources on the Internet can be harder to verify.

When you write a paper, it's important to cite your sources. Some web pages make it difficult to figure out who's telling you what & where they got their information. Library resources, even those in our online databases, will tell you exactly where the information came from.

6. The Internet is too new for some things.

Are you looking for news stories from the day you were born? How about speeches from World War I? The web is relatively new, & most sources of information over 10 - 15 years old have not been digitized or placed on the web. If you're looking for information on older events, you'll have better luck checking out the library's resources. There are a number of companies trying to digitize as much as possible to make it available online (again, usually for a fee). The interesting issue is that much of what they are working on is fairly old -- often over 75 years old. The more recent materials are still protected by the copyright law & several of the companies were sued when they digitized material without the permission of the copyright holder. So now, they are just avoiding materials still protected.

7. Library online resources are available 24/7.

There's more to the library than books these days. Library online databases can be accessed 24/7 through the library's catalog or direct links from the Library's webpage. Although you access these databases through the internet, they are not internet sources in the normal sense. They are every bit as much a part of our library's collection as the books on our shelves. The articles & ebooks you find in our online databases are reprinted from real live print sources.

8. The Internet is a mile wide & an inch deep.

So you've found 40 websites on widgets, but they all give you the same four or five facts without very much detail. How do you stretch that out to a five-page paper? For a varied & more in-depth analysis of widgets & widgetology, try some of the library's books, ebooks, or journal article databases.

9. You're already paying for the Library.

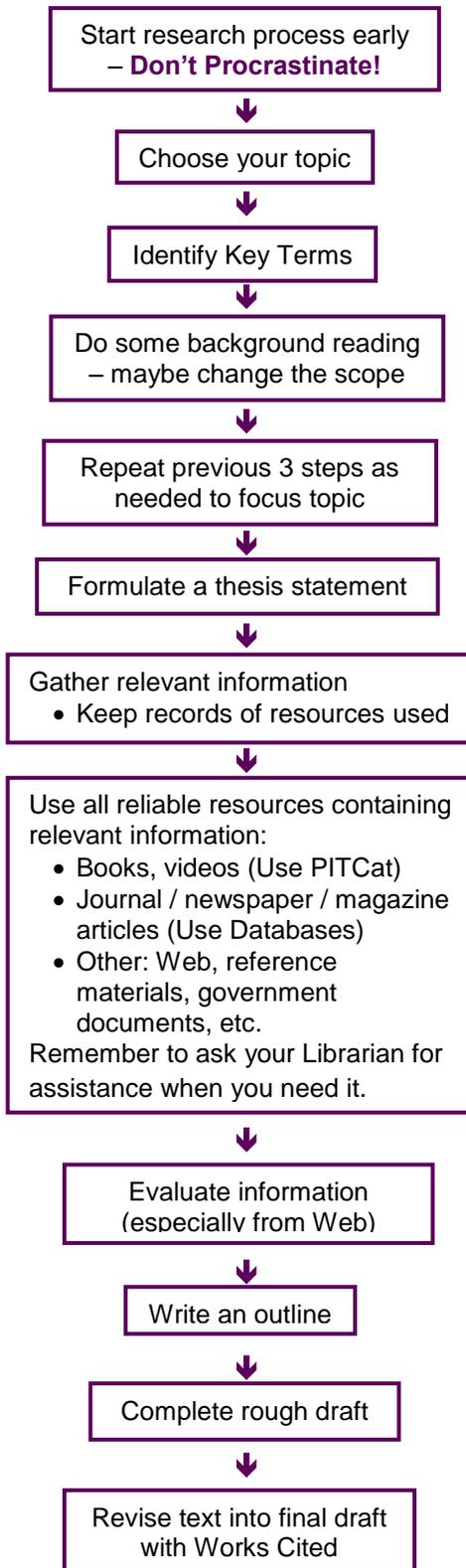
Your tuition & fees help pay for library resources. Why not get your money's worth?

☞ MORE WORDS OF WISDOM ☞

"Access to knowledge is the superb, the supreme act of truly great civilizations. Of all the institutions that purport to do this, free libraries stand virtually alone in accomplishing this mission."

~ Toni Morrison

**P.I.T. Library Research:
A Flowchart of the Steps**



☞ MORE WORDS OF WISDOM ☞

"In the end, what matters, and what we are about, are the ancient truths of librarianship: organizing, managing, making available, preserving, and celebrating the word in all of its manifestations; helping our users build skill sets the fundamentals of which (if not the ephemeral details) will last

a lifetime; and celebrating and defending the right to read, however that word is interpreted. This is what we do. This is who we are. This makes us librarians."

~ K.G. Schneider



PITCat: the Library's online catalog
Looking for a book or video? Check **PITCat**, our online catalog, accessible from any computer with internet access. Go to: <http://pitcat.pit.edu> & search our catalog to determine what resources we own or provide access.

**ATTENTION:
ID-Card Photo Session
Schedule**

Lynea is available in the Library for ID/Library Card photos during the following times:

Monday – Wednesday	9:00 am to 4:30 pm
Thursday	10:00 am to 5:30 pm
Friday	8:30 am to 4:00 pm



If you can't get your ID/Library Card photo taken during one of these times, stop by the Library to arrange an appointment with Lynea!

☞ FINAL WORDS OF WISDOM ☞

“Educating yourself does not mean that you were stupid in the first place; it means that you are intelligent enough to know that there is plenty left to **learn.**”

Melanie Joy
Monday – Nov 5, 2012(2:52 pm)



Off the Shelf is a monthly newsletter designed to inform P.I.T. students, faculty & staff of services, resources, & developments in the Library. If you have ideas for future issues, please contact Lynea Anderman at (610) 892-1524, by fax at (610) 892-1523 or by email at landerman@pit.edu or library@pit.edu

“The most important asset of any library goes home at night—the library staff.”
~ Father Timothy Healy, former president, New York Public Library