

12. Libraries provide interlibrary loan services- ILL. If the book or article you need is not available in the library, the library will borrow it from another library for you to use. Students may wait until the night before to write their paper, but they should start researching early! That perfect source may only be available through ILL and may take several days to arrive.

13. Colleges will hold transcripts and grades for outstanding fees and/or items not returned. Materials can be extremely expensive.

14. There is more in a college library than books. College libraries often have materials on reserve for specific classes, such as textbooks and study guides. Nearly all college libraries offer online access to articles from magazines, journals, and newspapers.



15. College book collections are large. School book collections are smaller and content varies considerably. College book collections support the courses that are offered on campus and the research needs of the students and the employees of the college.

16. Computers are not filtered. High schools filter access to the Internet; unfiltered access can be a bit of a change. Students have access to the entire Internet through library computers, but they are expected to behave like adults. Students are held responsible for inappropriate use of the Internet.

17. If you are eligible for work-study funds, your college library is a great place to work! You will get to know the resources available on your campus, and you will work with people who are focused on student success, including yours.

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Library Survival Skills



Students Should Know
Before Going to College


Fall 2011 - Spring 2012

Library Survival Skills Students Should Know Before Going to College

These tips from academic (i.e. College) librarians were retrieved from the Information Literacy Instruction discussion list (hosted on the American Library Association server, sponsored by the Instruction Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries).

1. **It's essential for students to** not just use Google for research. Many professors will NOT let students use only non-subscription Internet sources, especially Wikipedia.
2. College libraries have a large array of specialized databases that provide information for academic research.
3. College students need to know how to effectively access and utilize databases. This knowledge includes citing databases and understanding the various types of media available on databases.



4. College students must learn how to evaluate resources and to use the best resources possible. This is more than knowing the difference between a trusted .gov and a questionable .com for facts when researching.
 5. Students also need exposure to making citations for at least books, periodical articles, and database resources. Sure, there are citation builders, but they **don't always work that well**, and it takes practice to do citations correctly.
 6. Encyclopedias and dictionaries. Your high school probably has a few general encyclopedias and dictionaries. College libraries have a number of subject specific encyclopedias and dictionaries.
 7. Students simply must know enough about plagiarism to avoid committing it. Many colleges have very stiff penalties for all forms of academic dishonesty. Students need to understand the nuances of summarizing, paraphrasing, quoting, etc. and that ALL require citations.
 8. Students need to know what a call number is and how to locate resources in different locations of the library.
 9. College libraries employ librarians! Librarians are there to help students find the best possible resources. Nobody expects you to know where everything is in the library, so just ask.
 10. College students need to know what subject headings and keywords are and how to best use them when searching a library catalog, database, or free search browser (Google). Students should know Boolean search terms and how they work (and, or, not).
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11. Students should become comfortable using Web-based library catalogs to find information. High school library catalogs are often very different from academic library catalogs.