

INFORMATION & RESEARCH SKILLS CURRICULUM 2026

Brock University Library
Teaching & Learning Department



Introduction

At the Brock University Library, Teaching & Learning Librarians weave essential information literacies directly into the fabric of campus-wide curricula. Because navigating today's complex information landscape requires more than basic search skills, we partner with faculty to co-create instructional sessions and online modules to teach library and research skills students need to succeed in their academic studies.

Together, we guide learners through the reflective discovery, critical evaluation, and ethical use of information within their courses and broader communities. By fostering a creative mindset, we empower students to become critical thinkers, discerning researchers, and engaged digital citizens equipped for lifelong learning.

The following outlines the array of learning outcomes that Teaching & Learning Librarians address through our instructional initiatives.

Learning Outcomes

1. Information is Created

By the end of their degree, students are able to recognize that information has value and reflects the creator's expertise, credibility, and constructed authority within the context of the information need and intended use.

Through T&L engagement, students will be able to:

1. Describe the limits of Brock library information resources.
2. Identify key partners and processes involved in the production of information resources.
3. Articulate the value of information and how definitions of value change depending on context, discipline norms, and socio-cultural factors.
4. Discuss the contributions and limitations of differing forms of knowledge.
5. Differentiate between types of resources and how they might be used for different needs.
6. Critically examine information sources, including software, apps, databases, and Generative AI tools for elements of authority, provenance, relevance, accuracy and bias.
7. Examine own choices when creating information and the impact it can have on message and access.
8. Examine the ethical implications that information sources (e.g., Generative AI, scholarly databases, social media, etc.) have on authorship, social equity, labour, the environment, and intellectual property.





2. Research is Inquiry

By the end of their degree, students are able to perform iterative and explorative information searching based on a defined scope of inquiry while demonstrating mental flexibility to pursue alternate avenues as new understandings develop.

Through T&L engagement, students will be able to:

1. Seek multiple perspectives during information gathering to address information gaps and weaknesses.
2. Recognize when guidance from a librarian is required to meet information needs.
3. Formulate research questions with a clear scope and limitations.
4. Demonstrate flexibility by iterating research questions when necessitated by new information.
5. Recognize that searching for information takes time and requires an explorative attitude.
6. Translate research topics into key concepts for searching.

3. Research is Conversation

By the end of their degree, students are able to engage with communities of scholars, researchers, artists, elders, and professionals to advance discourses, solve problems, and generate new perspectives and interpretations.

Through T&L engagement, students will be able to:

1. Describe the process of and challenges involved in Peer Review.
2. Describe the value of attribution when using information sources (e.g., Generative AI) as part of the research process.
3. Practice academic integrity when using information sources, including Generative AI, for scholarly work (e.g., citing and referencing, transparency)
4. Recognize Indigenous ways of knowing/traditional knowledge as they relate to research practices.
5. Discern information from a citation or reference.
6. Discern when information limitations necessitate new research.
7. Make culturally respectful choices about the use of others' knowledge.
8. Recognize the responsibility to understand and apply copyright law when creating information or using sources, software, and AI systems.





4. Research is Technical

By the end of their degree, students are able to execute strategic search techniques when accessing online databases, information repositories, and search engines.

Through T&L engagement, students will be able to:

1. Access Brock Library resources and other information sources (e.g., Databases, LibGuides, Open Access resources, etc.).
2. Identify and use appropriate software, apps, databases, and AI systems relevant to different search tasks.
3. Describe the role of computer algorithms and AI systems in the organization and discovery of information in databases.
4. Perform 'citation chaining' using Omni, Google Scholar, or other tools.
5. Create a search string using Boolean operators, including phrasing, truncating, and nesting with parentheses.
6. Practice iterating database search strings and Generative AI prompts when seeking information.

5. Citizenship is Digital

By the end of their degree, students are able to critically engage with, and responsibly participate in, the digital landscape.

Through T&L engagement, students will be able to:

1. Understand the responsibilities involved in collecting, analyzing, sharing, and protecting digital data and information.
2. Understand the need to stay informed about rapidly evolving digital tools.
3. Recognize the importance of personal engagement and human creativity in the research process when employing AI systems.
4. Describe how programs, systems, and networks operate (e.g., LLMs, algorithms) and how they can influence society.
5. Articulate why and how misinformation, disinformation, malinformation, and manipulation of information occurs within the digital landscape.
6. Explain the benefits and risks involved in participating in the digital landscape for oneself and one's communities.
7. Explain the legal, ethical, and privacy aspects of how personal data may be collected and used by AI and other information systems.
8. Use digital technologies (including AI systems) and skills to assist in the development of new ideas, projects, creative outputs, and/or opportunities.
9. Act safely and responsibly in digital environments.



Connect with us

Have questions about our curriculum or want to explore how we can collaborate?

Email **libhelp@brocku.ca** to start a conversation.

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