

NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY LBR 105 – LIBRARY SKILLS FOR RESEARCH

Course Description

Introduces students to accessing, retrieving, evaluating, and applying a variety of digital and print information resources. Develops an understanding of the type of information provided in each of the information formats presented: reference, cataloged materials, magazines/journals, newspapers, and Internet sites. Provides background information, available resources, search techniques, sample searches, evaluation guides, and exams in each of the course units. Lecture 1 hour. Total 1 hour per week.

General Course Purpose

Prepare students to do basic library research needed to fulfill college freshman and sophomore course requirements

Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites

Placement into English 111. Satisfactory score on the English proficiency examination.

Course Objectives

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- Select and develop a well-defined research topic.
- Identify and describe types of information sources.
- Determine the appropriate tool for finding needed information and resources.
- Create and refine search strategies for using the online catalog, online article databases and Internet search tools to find books, periodical articles and web pages.
- Use Microsoft Word or another word processing program to properly format source citations.
- Evaluate the quality of different information sources for academic purposes.
- Document sources in MLA or APA citation style.
- Identify and use the services of a VCCS library.

Major Topics to be Included

- a. Search Strategies
- b. Library of Congress classification system
- c. Library Catalogues
- d. Periodical Databases
- e. Reference Materials
- f. Internet Searching
- g. Source Evaluation

EXTRA TOPICS (optional)

- Bibliographic Citation Styles