

## Library Activity

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English 125-64

Week of Monday, October 7, 2013

Libraries are one of the most wonderful creations of humankind—and certainly they're a resource you should cherish here at the University of Michigan. This activity, which will replace Wednesday's class period, will give you an opportunity to explore and learn about UM's libraries. In keeping with the focus in this on developing your ability to *learn independently*, this is going to be a self-guided activity.<sup>1</sup>

### The Assignment

During this week, you will go to several campus libraries, especially Hatcher and Shapiro, and complete the following tasks. You will then email me a report by Friday 8pm on the various tasks assigned. Because the assignment includes opportunities for you to engage in extramural reading, this assignment will *replace* your extramural reading assignment for this week.<sup>2</sup> The overall assignment should take somewhere between 2 and 4 hours; given that this replaces a whole class period and your week's extramural reading, this will hopefully make the week slightly more relaxing than most. The idea is that you should spend about 1.5-2 hours exploring the library and 1-2 hours reading and writing up your reactions. You may choose to do the bulk of this assignment during Wednesday's class period, or you may do it any other time<sup>3</sup> or split over a few times.

**NOTE: Please read through the whole document before you begin; you don't necessarily need to follow this order.**

### Resources You Might Find Useful

- If you have any questions as you explore the library, you should above all *feel free to ask the librarians*. They're here to help you. **I can't emphasize this enough!** You can find and ask them in person,<sup>4</sup> or you can also contact them by a phone, text, IM, or email. For more info, see <http://www.lib.umich.edu/ask-librarian/>
- There's a lot of information on the library website; take advantage of it!
- Feel free to ask your classmates for help. It's fine if you do parts of this activity together—if so, just let me know in your writeup.<sup>5</sup> (And I would hope that you wouldn't have identical answers; your browsing would lead you to different options.)

<sup>1</sup> This *doesn't* mean you're alone; far from it. You definitely should take advantage of resources to help you—librarians, your classmates, me, the internet, etc.

<sup>2</sup> If you are very busy this week and were planning on taking a bye for your extramural reading, email me by Thursday and we can work out a different schedule.

<sup>3</sup> You'll want to do it at a time when there are reference librarians available; during the week, Hatcher's reference librarians leave at 12, and Shapiro's at 10. On Friday, they leave earlier.

<sup>4</sup> There are a variety of employees at the library in different roles. For the most information, you'll want to consult the librarians at the reference desks. At Hatcher, the desk is on the second floor, and at Shapiro it is on the first floor (but different from the circulation desk by Bert's). But you should feel free if you have a simple question to ask any of the employees, and they should be able either to answer your question or direct you to someone who can.

<sup>5</sup> And make sure to be quiet in the quiet parts of the library!

- If you have a laptop, you might find this useful to bring with you. Otherwise, you can take advantage of the numerous computers available throughout the library (for example, on the second floor of Hatcher, in several labs on various floors of Shapiro, and scattered elsewhere throughout the libraries).
- If you have a smartphone, you might want to use the UM library's smartphone app, or just rely on the mobile browsing options.
- If you're not bringing a laptop with you, you'll want paper and pen/pencil to take notes. (This can be useful anyways, for writing down call numbers and locations.)
- You'll probably want to take advantage of some of the various maps and printed handouts in Shapiro and Hatcher to help you navigate and find things.
- There are lots of printers and copy machines located throughout the library. If you can't find one, feel free to ask a librarian! Also, many of the copy machines can also serve as scanners.

### *Some Useful Facts*

You might not need these for this activity, but here are a few facts that you might find useful.

- Shapiro Library is divided into two libraries. The Undergraduate Library is on the basement through second floors, and has a range of books across all disciplines.<sup>6</sup> The Science Library is on the third and fourth floors.<sup>7</sup> Most of the math books are on the fourth floor, in the QAs.
- If an item that you want is checked out, you can *recall it*. This means that the person who's borrowed the item has to return it within a week. Therefore, if you see an item that isn't due for two months, you can actually get it much sooner!<sup>8</sup> (You should also check, though, to see if there aren't other copies in the catalog.<sup>9</sup>)
- Items from other libraries on campus can be delivered to a library of your choice. For example, if you want an item from the Music Library on north campus, you don't have to go there; you can have it delivered to Shapiro. To do this, you'll log-in through the catalog and request the item.
- Some books will be listed as being the "Buhr Storage Facility". This is an off-campus storage facility. If you order books here, they will be delivered to campus within a day or two.
- Sometimes you will see books from UM Flint in the catalog. You can have those delivered to campus, too.

<sup>6</sup> This can be an especially effective place to browse, because a higher percentage of the books on the shelf are not too specialized.

<sup>7</sup> Note that the connector between Hatcher and Shapiro goes through the third floor of Shapiro and the second floor of Hatcher.

<sup>8</sup> Still, it might take a week or two. So if you have a big paper, you should plan ahead.

<sup>9</sup> Sometimes the catalog has different editions listed in different places, so it's a bit hard to see.

- Very rarely, there will be a book that you want that isn't in UM's collections. In that case, you can do *interlibrary loan*, where UM will get it from another library. Talk to a librarian for more info.

### *To Start*

Begin just by going to Shapiro and Hatcher, getting a map, and walking around a bit. Over the course of your wandering in the libraries in this assignment, you should explore a variety of areas—including the various mazes of Hatcher.<sup>10</sup>

### *Ask a Librarian*

Go to a reference librarian, either at the reference desk on the second floor of Hatcher or the desk in the first floor of Shapiro (this is inside, not the circulation desk by Bert's). Ask them a question! You might have a question based on some of the tasks you've been given here; that's fine. Feel free to ask multiple questions! If you don't have any questions, you might just ask them to tell you something interesting to discover!

*Writeup:* Tell me where you asked the librarian, what question, and how they helped.

### *Using Mirlyn to Find a Book, Browse Around, and then Check it Out*

Mirlyn is the online catalog. Use this to find a book. It can be a book for this class, for another class, for fun—it doesn't matter. You might find Mirlyn a bit tricky to use. That's fine—go ask a librarian for help! You might also find this guide helpful:

<http://guides.lib.umich.edu/content.php?pid=271097>

Once you find the call number of the book, you'll have to find it in the library stacks. This might be a bit tricky. Once again, ask a librarian if you need help!

Then, once you find the book, take a look at it.

After that, I want you also to *browse* around the nearby books. An important part of enjoying a library is this act of browsing; you'll discover wonderful things! Find some interesting book somewhere nearby. What made you look at that?

Finally, check out one (or more) of these books at one of the circulation desks. You can check a book out at any circulation desk in Hatcher/Shapiro. Read at least a bit of the book.

*Writeup:* Tell me what book it is, why you chose it, and where you found it. Read a bit from it (for at least 15 minutes), and respond a

<sup>10</sup> Note that Hatcher distinguishes between South and North. There are also some intermediate levels—1, 1A, etc. Not all elevators and stairways get you everywhere. There are even colored arrows and lines on the ground to help you navigate!

bit (as in the extramural reading). Also: what did you notice while browsing the nearby shelves?

### *University Reserves*

The *Reserves* are a collection of items that can be checked out for shorter periods—usually either 4 hours or 3 days, and usually because they’re used in a specified course. (You’re welcome, though, to take out books from courses other than your own.) The main University Reserves are on the second floor of Shapiro (although some branch libraries have reserves, too).

It’s slightly complicated to find the list of reserves by a course. To do this:

- Go to the *old* version of the catalog, Mirlyn Classic, at:  
<http://mirlyn-classic.lib.umich.edu>
- Click on “Course Reserves” in the upper right-hand corner.
- Then you can search by course or instructor name.

You should:

- Do this for all the courses you’re enrolled in, to see if there are any books on reserve. (Optional: you might check some out.)
- Do this for *this* course, checking out one of the books I put on reserve (other than Devlin), finding something interesting in it that isn’t on the assigned syllabus, and reading it for a bit. (Note: if you’re doing this on Wednesday from 2:30-4:00, don’t take the book out for more than 15 or so minutes, so that everyone can have a chance for this. Otherwise, these items can be checked out for 4 hours.<sup>11</sup>)

*Bonus:* While you’re here, you might notice that this is also *Askwith Media Library*, which has an enormous collection of DVDs—including pretty much every movie or tv show that you can imagine—that you can check out for free and watch either at home or in the booths right here. Feel free to check something out.

*Writeup:* Did you find anything on reserve for your other courses? And for this course, what did you find from the reserves and read about?

### *Branch Libraries*

Go to two branch libraries on campus that aren’t either Hatcher or Shapiro (either Science or undergraduate). Among your options:

<sup>11</sup> If you need the book longer, you can always make a photocopy or scan it.

- Duderstadt
- Music Library
- Art Library
- Tanner Library (in Angell Hall)
- Hopwood Reading Room (in Angell Hall)
- Ann Arbor Public Library (not on campus, but certainly allowed).
- Law Library (beautiful reading room)
- Ross Business Library
- The Language Resource Center in North Quad
- Taubman Health Sciences Library
- Not technically a library, but also acceptable: either the Dawn Treader or Literati bookstores downtown.

Find something interesting in each of these two. (Note: the interesting thing can be something you're required to do for one of these other sections.)

*Writeup:* Tell me something interesting you found at each of two of these.

### *Study Spot*

Find a nice study spot in one of the libraries.

*Writeup:* Tell me where it is and why you like it as a study spot, especially in light of your recent thinking about productivity. (For example: are there areas of Hatcher where wifi doesn't work? Hint: there are.)

### *Reference Library*

Go to the big reference room on the second floor of Hatcher. Browse the reference books on the wall. Find an interesting book, find something interesting in it, and read it. *Optional:* You might also want to check out the reference options in the Shapiro Science library on the third floor.

*Writeup:* Email me a paragraph about what you found.

## Using Electronic Databases

Nowadays, a lot of library research doesn't have to be done in the library; most journal articles, for example, are available through online databases that the library subscribes to. It's important that you develop the skills to find articles through these databases. Therefore, I'm going to give you the following not fully helpful instructions: Find an article written by John Poland in 1987 called "A Modern Fairy Tale" and download and/or print a copy. What you're going to have to do is:

- Figure out where this article is published. You might also have to found out what issue it was published in and on what pages.
- Find this journal through UM's online journal system.

I'll give you a few hints, which should help you get an idea of how you would do this in a general case and which should help you in this specific task:

- First, it's never a bad idea to use google initially. Sometimes you'll luck out and get a copy of the article appear quite easily—either because a pdf version is freely available online or because there's a link to the official database version.<sup>12</sup> (I think I've chosen something where you won't be that lucky.) At the very least, you might be able to find bibliographic references with more information about the source you're looking for.
- Once you know what journal you need, you'll want to search Mirlyn (the catalog) for the journal name. Unfortunately, this can sometimes be confusing; there will be multiple listings, some in print and some online.<sup>13</sup> If you have questions, you can ask a librarian!
- It will turn out that the journal you need is available through *JStor*, one of the biggest databases of online journals.<sup>14</sup> To access *JStor*, you need to be verified through the University of Michigan, which pays to subscribe to certain journals.<sup>15</sup> Precisely how you are verified depends on the database and whether you are at a library computer or not. Generally, what you have to do is connect to the database through the library's proxy server. The process is this:
  - If you click on the link to the journal on *JStor* through Mirlyn, it will send you to the library's proxy server, which verifies you after you login with your unickname.
  - Alternatively, you can use the UM Library Proxy Bookmarklet,<sup>16</sup> available here:

[www.lib.umich.edu/mlibrary-labs/proxy-server-bookmarklet](http://www.lib.umich.edu/mlibrary-labs/proxy-server-bookmarklet)

<sup>12</sup> As I discuss below about the proxy server, sometimes that version of the URL won't have you fully authenticated with the library, so you'll have to do additional work.

<sup>13</sup> Sometimes, there will be different online databases for different date ranges. For example, the issues from 2000-2013 will be in one database, and the ones before 2000 will be in another database.

<sup>14</sup> You might have heard of "JStor" in the news in the past year because of sad story of the suicide of Aaron Swartz, who was being prosecuted by the federal government for improperly downloading from *JStor*. There are a lot of complicated societal debates about whether these journals should be freely available online or not. I'd encourage you to read more about this; email me, and I'd be happy to give you suggestions.

<sup>15</sup> There are some journals on *JStor* that the University doesn't subscribe to, for reasons of cost.

<sup>16</sup> This also works for other sites the library subscribes to, for example, the *New York Review of Books*.

This way, you can go to the regular JStor page and then click on the link and it will send you to the right proxy URL. (This is helpful if Google sends you to the right JStor page.)

- Then you will have to search within JStor for the journal for the right year and volume.<sup>17</sup>

*Remember:* If any of this is confusing, feel free to ask a librarian. They're here to help you! Explain to them that you're doing this for a course, and that you want to learn the skills to find these articles, so that they'll go through explaining the steps to you.

We'll be discussing this article in class later this semester. So you don't have to read the article, just save and print a copy for November.

### *Periodicals*

You have three tasks:

- Find and browse a recent (last year or so) edition of *at least two* different magazines (at least one from the list of recommended titles for extramural reading on the course website), and read at least one longer or 2-3 shorter articles from each of them. You can find these on Shapiro's First Floor or Hatcher's Second Floor periodical rooms. Ask a librarian if you can't find these! You can also find some periodicals at other branch libraries, and you might choose to do that. (For example, you'll find lots of literary magazines in the Hopwood Room; business titles at Ross; engineering and science publications at the Duderstadt; etc.)
- Find and read two articles from a *newspaper* from the last week, from the print edition of one of the following three papers: *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*. To do this, you'll want to go either to the periodicals room on Hatcher's 2nd floor or one of the branch libraries which have current newspapers (e.g., Ross or the Duderstadt).
- Go and find a *bound volume* of an old periodical. (The library takes old issues and binds them together in book form.) You'll find many of these in Hatcher 1 East (it's a bit of a maze—ask for help!), if you look for the AP 2 and AP 4 shelves.<sup>18</sup> Recommended choices: *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, *The New Republic*, *The Nation*, *The National Review*. Read a few short articles or one long article from the issue.<sup>19</sup>

*Writeup:* Tell me what articles you read, including relevant bibliographic information. (In particular, make sure to include the name of

<sup>17</sup> Sometimes, if you can google the article, you can skip this step, since google will get you the right URL (except for the proxy server).

<sup>18</sup> Even older bound volumes are available through the off-site storage facility.

<sup>19</sup> *Optional:* If you want, you can just read the issue there, or you can make a photocopy, using the photocopying machines located around the library.

publication, the date, the author, the page numbers, and the title.) As with your extramural reading responses, respond a bit more in depth (e.g., a full paragraph) to at least one of these.

### *Shapiro Browsing Collection*

On the first floor of Shapiro, near the periodicals, there's a section with various popular books to browse. Take a look at these. Pick one out and read a chapter. For more info, see

<http://www.lib.umich.edu/shapiro-undergraduate-library/browsing-collection/>

*Writeup:* Tell me which book you chose, and what you read about (briefly).

### *Find a Book with Writing Advice*

In addition to the book you're supposed to find on your own, I also want you to find a book with writing advice and check it out. Some places you might look are around call numbers PE 1431 (in Hatcher or Shapiro) and call number 808 (in Hatcher), but there are other places, too. Feel free just to go to those sections and browse. Of course, you could also ask a librarian for advice. And you might go and look and see what books *other* English 125 courses have put on reserves. Or you might go to one of the bookstores and look at what *other* English 125 courses have assigned as writing manuals.<sup>20</sup>

*Writeup:* Take a look at some of the advice. Read part of the book for 10-15 minutes, and compare it with what we've talked about in class. Do you like the author's advice? Do you disagree with it?

### *Find Something Wonderful*

Lastly, I want you just to *explore* and find wonderful things in the library. Among the things you might check out—but this isn't an exhaustive list:

- The rare books collection on the 7th floor of Hatcher.
- The exhibits in the gallery on the first floor of Hatcher.
- The exhibits in the map library on the second floor of Hatcher.
- A really cool book you discovered browsing.
- A nook or cranny that is lovely.
- And many more things.

<sup>20</sup> Tip: The UM libraries mostly use the Library of Congress system. (There are a few areas which use the Dewey system.) If you are browsing at, say, Ulrich's, you can look at the copyright page, find the library of congress number, and then go to the library shelves at that call number and you'll be able to browse similar items.



Try to find something beautiful or wonderful. If you're not sure, you could certainly ask a librarian for suggestions of things to explore.

*Writeup:* Tell me something cool you found!

### *Your Writeup*

Your writeup should just be an email to me, sent by 8pm Friday, 10/11. Have separate headings for the various categories where I asked you to do *writeup*. This shouldn't take too long or be too long, but it should be carefully proofread and appropriately formatted, as with the extramural reading responses.