

## Information Literacy at the University of Florida's Center for Undergraduate Research (UF CUR)

The Smathers Libraries at UF work closely with the UF CUR through two liaison librarians, Marilyn Ochoa and Donna Wrublewski. They work closely with the UF CUR to schedule library workshops and provide general subject research expertise in humanities and social sciences areas (Marilyn) as well as science and medicine (Donna).

### Instruction Sessions

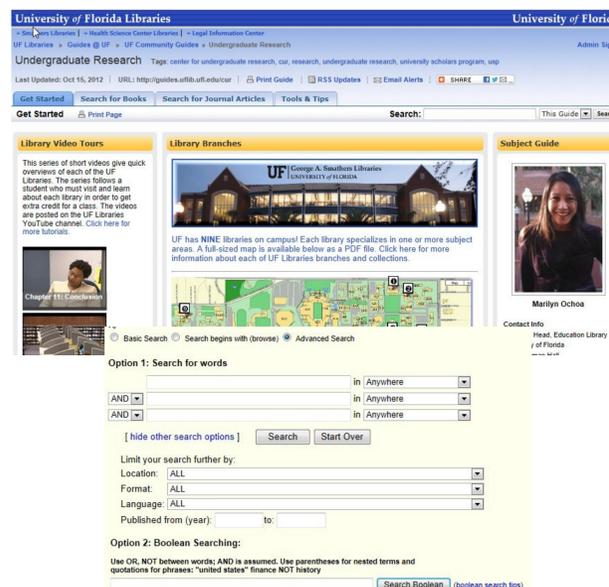
Usually held in a hands-on computer classroom, allowing students to follow along, create accounts, and actively search during the lesson.

#### Session Goals:

- ◇ Know that a librarian is there for assistance
- ◇ Know what type of information sources to use
- ◇ Find subject-specific and freely-available resources
- ◇ Learn and understand ways to maximize research time with advanced search strategies
- ◇ Consider basics on scholarly manuscript preparation, specifically focusing on tools to keep research organized and cited correctly

#### Goal Assessment:

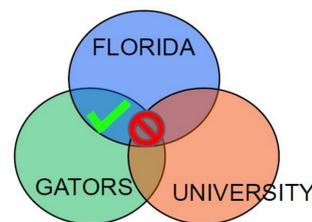
Most library instruction sessions are one-time classes that occur as part of the syllabus for a subject-based course. As such, assessment on the individual session is rarely performed; rather, indirect feedback from instructors on the quality of assignments requiring library research is sometimes obtained.



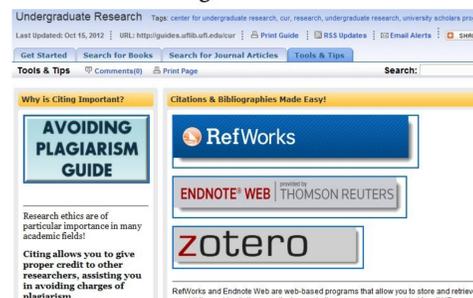
### Boolean Searching

So, what if we nested terms?

Example: Florida **AND** Gators **NOT** University



Resources that include *florida* and *gators* but excludes any that have both those terms with the word *university*



### Challenges for UF CUR Sessions

The UF CUR coordinates several research programs including the University Scholars Program and the Florida-Georgia Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation, and provides support for others including McNair Scholars and Research Experience for Undergraduates. From a library literacy standpoint, some of the challenges in supporting a wide number of programs include:

- ◇ Range of disciplines and majors
- ◇ Uneven exposure to library resources
- ◇ Session time and scheduling constraints

### Opportunities for Assessment

- ◇ Individual one-time sessions
  - Task-based assessments such as worksheets or goal-oriented group work
- ◇ Long-term assessment
  - Coordination with the Journal of Undergraduate Research or individual program presentations to review final papers or posters
- ◇ Direct interaction with mentors

***Ultimately, assessments of successful information literacy are manifested by improved research skills, presentations, and publications. In addition, these transferable skills will provide a strong basis for students as they continue on to graduate, medical, or industrial research positions.***