**Keeping Current and Generating Ideas**

Many campus groups have regularly scheduled speakers and reading groups to spark conversation around research topics of interest. Watch for email notifications, but you may want to look at these options in detail—or even subscribe to the updates for a particular series or campus group.

- **Historical and Cultural Research Group (Library Faculty):** contact Paula Mae Carns (pcarns@illinois.edu).
- You can use RSS feeds to stay current on new journal issues, but also contact Dan Tracy to set up an account with our subscription to the Informed Librarian, a monthly table-of-contents service that allows you to select groups of related journals in LIS areas of interest.
- The Graduate School of Library and Information Science supports a number of relevant research and interest groups. See especially weekly events for the e-Research Roundtable and CIRSS Seminars.
- **Center for Advanced Study (CAS) events** (see especially the MillerComm Lecture series).
- **Illinois Project for Research in the Humanities (IPRH):** There is significant social sciences overlap in this group, despite its name. Look for reading groups and public lectures.
- **Social and Behavioral Research Council Working Groups**
- The Unit for Criticism and Theory has public lectures and “seminars” (reading groups) on humanities topics, though often touching on areas of interest to those outside the humanities.

**Developing New Skills**

Need to learn a new piece of software, learn some statistical analysis, or develop another technical skill to aid in your research? Try some of the following workshops and tutorials.

- **The Savvy Researcher:** This UIUC Library Series is for you too! Sign up for sessions on GIS, humanities text encoding, citation management systems, and more.
- **Applied Technologies for Learning in the Arts & Sciences (ATLAS)** offers workshops on ArcGIS, SAS, SPSS, STATA, R, and Questionnaire Design.
- **Lynda.com tutorials:** A University license allows you to make use of in-depth introductions and learn software like Microsoft Access, Camtasia, and much more.
- Is there a kind of training you need but can’t get? Talk to Staff Development and Training Coordinator Beth Woodard (bswoodar@illinois.edu).
Funding Your Research

The UIUC Library and various services on campus provide an increasing number of options to apply for internal funding or look for external opportunities. Beyond the resources on this list, watch for emails advertising campus workshops on applying to external grants.

- **Research and Publications Committee (RPC):** The library RPC funds research-related activities including travel (to research sites), copying, hiring student assistants, and more.

- **University Library Innovation Seed Funds:** The library Executive Committee evaluates applications for these funds. These are tied to innovative services that you may wish to study as you develop them.

- The library maintains a [LibGuide on finding grants, fellowship, and scholarships](https://libraryguides.library.illinois.edu/grant) with a list of funding sources, resources in the library’s collections, and resources for help writing grants.

- Watch for the Dean of Libraries to request proposals for use of the Merrick Fund for “orphan” projects, or for other special funds.

- **The Campus Research Board** provides funding, including seeds funds, of up to $30,000 to faculty. Funding approval is a peer-reviewed process. The Board also has office hours and workshops to help you create a successful application, or you can make an appointment.

- **The Provost’s Initiative on Teaching Advancement (PITA)** provides grants each year to “enable recipients to design, implement, and assess instructional innovation that has a high probability of enhancing education at Illinois.” You can also talk to Lisa Hinchliffe (ljanicke@illinois.edu), Coordinator for Information Literacy Services and Instruction, for advice on finding money for instruction-related events.

- Grant Forward Database: The key UIUC resource for finding external funding opportunities. You can search the database by keyword and limit to particular areas of interest. You can find Grant Forward and other external funding resources on the website for the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research.

Acting Ethically

The University offers the following resources to help you develop an ethical research agenda.

- **UIUC Institutional Review Board:** The IRB provides ethical guidelines for research, the necessary ethics training in online modules, and materials for the approval process for all human subjects research. IRB staff will also work with you on your application in advance, and there are even a few IRB staff members with MLS degrees.

- The OVCR maintains a broader list of policies and compliance issues for your research.

- Review the [ALA’s information on professional ethics](https://www.alaweb.org/ethics) and the [Illinois Library Records Confidentiality Act](https://www.chiarity.com/illinoisprivacy.html).
Developing Methods, Instruments, and Technologies

There are a variety of resources on campus to help you ensure the methodological rigor of your study and prepare the tools you will need to complete it.

- The library has a number of resources in its collections to help explore research methods. Many of these are in the SSHEL circulating reference collection or online. You can find many key resources in SAGE Research Methods Online, which brings together many of the key publications related to various methodological approaches. You can also contact Dan Tracy for further assistance finding sources related to research methods.

- **The Library Assessment Committee** is a great resource if your research involves assessment of the library. Their website has information on library data and assessment resources. Contact the Coordinator for Library Assessment, Jen-chien Yu (jyu@illinois.edu), for more information or to get help developing your assessment project.

- The Scholarly Commons in the library offers many services you may find useful, including:
  - **Data services** to help find and format numeric and spatial data—assistance from librarians and visiting staff from ATLAS.
  - **Technological and human support for digital humanities projects** such as text encoding, text mining, and building image archives with associated metadata.
  - **A host of licensed software applications** to help you develop your research instruments and analyze the data they produce.

- Library IT offers **equipment for checkout by Library faculty** for instruction and research. If there is something Library IT does not have, the **Undergraduate Library Media Commons** can also provide **technology loans** useful to your research. The Media Commons also provides media production space and advanced technical assistance for media production, mobile app prototyping, and more.

- **The University of Illinois Survey Research Lab** provides limited free consulting on survey projects. They also often have special hours arranged at the Scholarly Commons in the library, which can also be used freely, and they will provide further consulting for a fee. They also keep a **list of helpful links for survey studies**.

- **The Web Services Toolbox** can be used to create research surveys that are secure and ensure confidentiality of respondents—and can be made anonymous as well. The Public Affairs office also has intermittent training sessions on using the survey tool.

- **The Illinois Statistics Office**, associated with the Department of Statistics at UIUC, offers fee-based consulting for design and analysis during your research.
Writing

It can be easy to let procrastination set in or feel isolated during the writing process. But it doesn’t have to be that way! Take advantage of the following opportunities to stay on task.

- Library Writing Groups meet regularly to keep members on task and to give feedback on draft material, including everything from a research instrument or grant proposal to conference papers or sections of articles. To join a writing group, contact Dan Tracy (dtracy@illinois.edu).

- The Writers Workshop works with anyone at the University on their writing, and you can set up recurring appointments if you are working on an extended project. WW reps can work with you on brainstorming, drafting, organization, clarity, ESL issues, and more. It is not a proofreading service, but the website does have a list of local editors for hire (see bottom of main Writers Workshop website for a link to the current year’s list).

- UIUC membership in The National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity provides resources to help you with time management as well as planning and writing book proposals, journal articles, and more. You can join an online writing group focused on setting deadlines giving group members positive reinforcement to keep going.

- Tech tip: Working on a collaborative research project? Use your UIUC Box.com account to create a shared folder to keep from emailing endless drafts between collaborators.

Publishing and Presenting Your Research

Whether finding a place to publish or present, managing your rights as an author, or traveling to present your research, there are resources available to help you get your research to its audience. Please also feel free to contact Dan Tracy (dtracy@illinois.edu) for help discovering a good venue.

- Cabell’s Directory of Publishing Opportunities in Educational Technology and Library and Information Science focuses on scholarly journals where academic librarians would publish their research. Follow the link and click the button “Educational Technology & Library Science”, then “Access Selected Directory.” There is an extensive menu of subtopics you can use for journals that focus on a topic of interest. Choose one, then click “Display Results.”

- The Scholarly Commons helps you stay aware of your rights as an author and issues to consider when choosing a place to publish and agreeing to a publishing contract. You can start with the SC website, or contact Sarah Shreeves for a consultation (sshreeve@illinois.edu).

- For conference presentation travel funds beyond that provided to library faculty, you can apply to the UIUC Scholars’ Travel Fund. Assistant professors can have two trips a year funded, one of which can be international travel. Tenured faculty may have one trip funded per year.

- Watch your email for CFPs from your professional organizations and for those forwarded by your colleagues via the library email list. You may also want to sign up for updates from the blog Dolores’ List of CFPs, which tracks LIS, Education, and Gender & Women’s Studies.

This guide is maintained by LIS and Research Support Librarian, Dan Tracy. If you know of corrections or services that should be listed, please contact him at dtracy@illinois.edu.
Promoting Your Work!

Whether you are publishing or presenting, you want to make sure your work is available to other researchers and that people know about it!

- Deposit your work in our institutional repository, IDEALS, to make it openly available to scholars. You can deposit publications, posters, conference papers, and other research outputs.
  - For publications, you will need to make sure you know what rights you have as an author to deposit versions of your research (usually preprints). You can find your rights according to specific journal policies using SHERPA/RoMEO. For other documents or if you are unsure, contact Sarah Shreeves (sshreeve@illinois.edu) for assistance.

- Create profiles in Google Scholar, ORCID, and other relevant key researcher identifier programs in order to create a consistent public face for your work and ensure your publications are linked to your professional identity and not misassigned to someone else. Feel free to contact Dan with questions about this.

- Let the library know! Contact Dan Tracy (dtracy@illinois.edu), and he can pass on word to RPC (if your project received RPC funding), as well as promote the work of you and your colleagues on the library blog Recognizing Excellence at the University of Illinois Library, the LIS Virtual Library Twitter feed (@uilislib), and other channels.

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