

IGSD

Global Perspective Program

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Global Projects Preparation: Infusing Information Literacy into Project-Based Curricula

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Worcester Polytechnic Institute

- Founded in 1865 as *Worcester County Free Institute of Industrial Science* as nation's third-oldest private independent technological university
- More than **50 project-based undergraduate and graduate degree programs** in science, engineering, technology, management, social sciences, and humanities and arts
- 2,861 undergraduates/1042 graduate students/324 faculty

Interdisciplinary and Global Studies Division

- Responsible for overseeing the Interactive Qualifying Project (IQP) and the Global Perspective Program.

INTERDISCIPLINARY & GLOBAL STUDIES

Global Perspective Program

Project Centers in the World





Gordon Library

- The library partners with the WPI community in teaching, learning, and scholarship by providing resources and innovative services that anticipate and respond to changing information needs.
- [IT Liaison program](#) – librarians & academic technologists partner to provide support to academic departments

Interactive Qualifying Project

- Course requirement equivalent in credit to 3 courses
- Interdisciplinary team project that helps students understand how science and technology impact society
- 2/3 of undergraduates complete in 7-weeks at Project Centers worldwide
- Project teams: 3-5 students who work with advisor(s) and sponsor



Jeremy Chapman
Class of 2009
Project Center: Denmark
Hometown: Worcester, MA
Major: Aerospace Engineering



Jennifer Himottu
Class of 2009
Project Center: Melbourne, Australia
Hometown: Sterling, MA
Major: Civil Engineering

Outcomes – Related to Information Literacy

Students who complete an Interactive Qualifying Project will:

- *Critically identify, utilize, and properly cite information sources, and integrate information from multiple sources to identify appropriate approaches to addressing the project goals*
- *Analyze and synthesize results from social, ethical, humanistic, technical or other perspectives, as appropriate.*
- *Demonstrate the ability to write clearly, critically and persuasively. Demonstrate strong oral communication skills, using appropriate, effective visual aids.*
- *Demonstrate an awareness of the ethical dimensions of their project work.*

[Complete list of IQP outcomes ...](#)

Research Methods Course

- ID2050: 7-week preparation course prior to off-site project experience
- As part of this course, Project Center librarian liaisons partner with faculty to:
 - Embed research skills tutorials & information resources into Blackboard
 - Offer team research consultation
 - Offer training on citation management tools

Research Skills Tutorials

- Announcements
- Course Information
- Syllabus
- Assignments
- Staff Information
- Course Documents
- myWPI Support
- Library Assignmen**
- Library
- Books
- Communication
- Virtual Classroom
- Discussion Board
- Tools
- Groups
- External Links
- Tools

- Course Tools
- Communication
 - Course Tools
 - Course Map

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH FOR THE IQP (NAMIBIA) (ID2050-C08-W6) > LIBRARY ASSIGNMENTS

Library Assignments



Feedback for Library

Please take a quick moment to respond to 5 questions about the library tutorial, quizzes, and research consultation so that we can improve.



Research Circuit Tutorial & Consultation with Librarian



research circuit: information skills tutorial

Step One: Review the [Research Circuit: Information Skills Tutorial](#) and then take the two quizzes. The tutorial is a series of modules and may take a few hours to complete.

Step Two: Fill out a [research consultation request form](#) to set up a team meeting with a librarian. This will help us customize the research session to provide search strategies and resources for your **specific** IQP project.

Step Three: As a group, complete the [online Research Plan](#) at least 48 hours before your meeting with the librarian. You may want to print or copy & paste a copy for yourself. Please plan to meet with a librarian during the week of the 21-25th:

1. as a team
2. prepared to ask potential research questions about your *specific* project.

Skeptical about meeting with a librarian? Last year, 96% of the IQP students *agreed or strongly agreed* that the research consultation with the librarian improved their ability to perform research for their IQP project.

Questions: Contact a Research Librarian: CHAT: [wpiref](#) or [wpi.edu/+library/Help](#) or cdrew@wpi.edu.



Research Circuit Quiz 1

Test your knowledge of what you have learned by completing the first four [Research Circuit](#) modules:

- [Starting Smart](#)
- [Developing a Topic](#)
- [Finding Books: Using the Library Catalog](#)
- [Finding Articles](#)

Research Consultations

- Student teams complete preliminary [Research Plan](#) prior to 1 hour meeting with librarian
- Librarians use standard research plan template during customized consultation



Consultation Outcomes

Students learn to:

- choose and evaluate appropriate information resources for their project
- search effectively utilizing Boolean and appropriate keywords or subject headings within Internet search engines and specialized databases
- find and obtain a wide range of information sources as appropriate, such as books, academic papers, review articles, handbooks, case studies, technical reports, and government information
- identify experts and pertinent organizations in order to track down specialized information
- use information ethically by appropriate documentation and begin to understand when copyright permission is needed, and how to obtain it.

Assessment of IL Skills

Student self-evaluations

- 96% of the students agreed or strongly agreed that the research consultation with the librarian improved their ability to perform research
- 63% percent agreed or strongly agreed that the Research Circuit online tutorial improved their ability to perform research for the IQP project



Faculty Perceptions of Student Performance

- All agreed or strongly agreed that due to instruction by the librarians their students were able to find more academic or scholarly information.
- All agreed that the library's online tutorial and consultation with the research librarian helped the students produce higher quality work.
- Most felt that the students were more competent creating bibliographies due to working with the librarians

Future Directions

- Improving online tutorial to include interactivity
- Work with faculty to develop rubric to assess background chapters based on [post-project review criteria](#)
- Possible citation analysis of project bibliographies





IQP REVIEW FORM

Summer 2007

Reviewer: _____

Basic Information:

Project Title:		Library Reference #
Advisor of Record:	Advisor's Dept.	Project Sponsor: (if any)
Co-Advisors and Departments:		Team Size:
Student Majors:		
Registration by Term (units or thirds) A ____ B ____ C ____ D ____ E ____		

PROJECT REPORT

Please rate and, where appropriate, comment on the quality and adequacy of the following components and aspects of the project report: (A = absent, 1 = poor, 3 = acceptable, 5 = excellent)

1. PROJECT OBJECTIVE/INTRODUCTION/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

a) Project Objective (Completeness, Clarity): A 1 2 3 4 5

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