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Can Virtual Library Practicums Be Successful? A Practicum Student's Experience

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Poster Abstract:

Title: Can Virtual Library Practicums Be Successful? A Practicum Student's Experience.

By: Nyra White, USM SLIS Graduate Student, The University of Southern Mississippi, and Justin Easterday, Education and Human Sciences Librarian, USM - Gulf Coast Library

During Summer of 2022, a virtual practicum happened at the Gulf Coast Library at USM. Nyra White, a graduate student in the USM MLIS program served as the student worker while Justin Easterday, Education, and Human Sciences Librarian and Assistant Professor, served as the practicum supervisor. Together, Justin and Nyra worked through the practicum process by collaborating Nyra's librarian interests and current library liaison projects and setting timelines to meet the required practicum hours. Major projects worked on during this practicum included LibGuide creation, Collection Development, Reference Questions, and Instruction Workshop. Justin provided the purpose and tasks for each project along with documents for Nyra to access in a Teams shared file. This allowed progress to be tracked and to ensure completion dates were met. Outcomes of the practicum included the student's own LibGuide for a designated LIS course, a few added materials to a collection (as well as a few social justice materials), lessons on answered reference questions, and the student completed an instruction workshop, with feedback provided by USM librarians. What Nyra found most successful out of the practicum was creating the LibGuide as it serves as a great resource for students.



Library & Information Science 501 - Reference and Information Resources and Services: Home

Student course guide

- Home
- Encyclopedias, etc.
- Find Books
- Find Articles & Databases
- Find Journal Title
- Find Videos
- Websites

Home

Librarian Practicum Student



Nyra White
University Libraries SLIS Practicum Student

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Subjects: Library and Information Science, Special Collections, Children's and Young Adult Literature, Curriculum Instruction & Special Education, Education, Elementary Education, Instructional Technology

Research Guide for Reference and Information Resources and Services 501

This guide provides a starting point for Library Science students, faculty and staff conducting research at the University Libraries. Click on the tabs above to discover books, journal articles, databases and other resources to help you with your course research.

If you need help, please contact the Education and Human Sciences Librarian.

Search - Everything

Use the Seymour Info search tool to discover items in the USM Libraries' collections, article databases, and other sources.

- Library Services**
- Interlibrary Loan
 - Plagiarism Tutorial

FAQ about the Libraries

For more help using library resources and services, try our FAQ.

Help



e-mail
live chat
virtual research consultations


- Schedule a Consultation
- Email
- Live Chat

- Other Services for Students**
- Gulf Park Academic Success Center
 - Advisement Center
 - Center for Student Success
 - iTech Help Desk
 - Math Zone
 - Office of Online Learning
 - Speaking Center
 - TRIO Student Support Services Program
 - Writing Center

Encyclopedias, etc.

Reference Resources

Reference resources include encyclopedias, dictionaries, almanacs, guides or handbooks, as well as other less common types of resources.



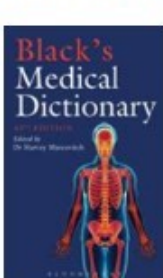
Provides access to a collection of aggregated and integrated reference books from high-quality publishers.

Search Credo Reference

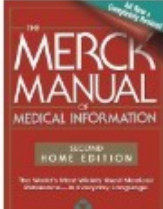
- Statistical Resources**
- U.S. Census Bureau Data**
Data.census.gov is the new platform to access data and digital content from the U.S. Census Bureau. The long term goal is to integrate data.census.gov with the main Census web page, census.gov, to create a seamless data user experience, where data are accessible using a single search bar. Until that time, data.census.gov will remain a stand-alone search platform while development continues in improving the site.
[more...](#)
 - Statistical Abstract of the U.S.**
A comprehensive collection of statistics on the social, political, and economic conditions of the United States. Previously published by the U.S. Census Bureau and now published by ProQuest.
 - Occupational Outlook Handbook**
Contains extensive information on all occupations.

Medical & Health Resources

Here are some examples of reference resources in our collection. Use the Seymour Info search tool to discover additional reference resources.



Black's Medical Dictionary by Harvey Marcovitch
ISBN: 1472943074
Publication Date: 2017



The Merck Manual of Medical Information by Mark H. Beers
ISBN: 0911910352
Publication Date: 2003

- Building the LibGuide was one of the most enjoyable experiences of the virtual practicum. Justin and I met regularly to walk-through the LibGuide set up. Taking our time on each section really helped me to understand that the overall goal of the research guide is to assist students and as I build it, I should think about what the students will use. Ultimately, building the site is a collaborative effort for the librarian and web designer.
- An important lesson from building the LibGuide was learning the importance of web accessibility and keeping in mind that the guide should be accessible for users who use screen readers. I learned how to use tools that check guide accessibility such as Totally, ANDI, WAVE and A11y report.

Break down your topic into its "searchable" parts (the main ideas). Then think of the types of keywords that describe those ideas. If possible, check these against a database's thesaurus or index. You can also ask your instructor or librarian for ideas.

Use the Boolean Operators **AND**, **OR** and **NOT** to refine your search:

- Operator **AND** narrows a search (fruits **AND** vegetables)
- Operator **OR** widens a search (fruits **OR** vegetables)
- Operator **NOT** excludes a term from the results (fruits **NOT** apples)



AND

- Retrieves articles that contain **ALL** the terms
- NARROWS** the search

"video games" **AND** teens

OR

- Retrieves articles with **ANY** of the terms
- BROADENS** the search

children **OR** juveniles

NOT

- Eliminates articles containing the **SECOND** term
- NARROWS** the search

games **AND** teens **NOT** adults

Graphic by: Janessa Ullendorf

Note for Reviewer

Note for Reviewer: Below is the alt text Nyra added to the Boolean Operators image. This text box will be removed before publishing the guide.

- Infographic of three Boolean operators: and, or, and not in yellow circles with gray lines. Next to operator And yellow circle and is a gray box with two bullets explaining how it refines the search it retrieves articles that contain the terms and narrows the search, with an example "video games" AND "teens" in a search window. There is a gray box next to the operator "or" with an explanation of how it helps refine the search it retrieves articles with ANY of the terms and broadens the search, and example "children OR juveniles" in a search window. And next to the not operator yellow circle is a gray box with two bullets explaining how it refines the search it eliminates articles containing the second term and narrows the search, and "games AND teens NOT adults" in a search window.

Articles tend to be longer.	Articles tend to be shorter, some only 1-2 pages.
Issues tend to be published less often (monthly, quarterly, semi-annually).	Issues tend to be published more frequently (monthly, weekly, daily).

Narrowing Your Search: Truncation and Wild Cards

Truncation and Wild Cards

Break down your topic into its "searchable" parts (the main ideas). Then think of the types of keywords that describe those ideas. If possible, check these against a database's thesaurus or index. You can also ask your instructor or librarian for ideas.

Use Truncation, Wildcards, and other Methods to Limit your Search:

- Add an **asterisk mark (*)** to the end of a keyword to include its variations (e.g., diet, diets, dieting, dietary, etc.) in a search.
- Use a **question mark (?)** within words to search for single character variations (e.g., wom?n for woman or women).
- Check the database you are using for other limiters.



- Add ***** to the end of a keyword to include its **VARIATIONS** (diet, diets, dieting, dietary, etc)

diet*

?

- Use **?** within words to search for **SINGLE CHARACTER** variations (women or woman)

wom?n

Graphic by: Janessa Ullendorf

Note for Reviewer

Note for Reviewer: Below is the alt text Nyra added to the Truncation, Wildcards, and other Methods image. This text box will be removed before publishing the guide.

- Infographic of two examples of truncation and wildcards to help limit your search. First example is an asterisk in a yellow circle with gray lines. Next to the circle is a gray box that reads "Add asterisk to the end of a keyword to include its variations (diet, diets, dieting, dietary, etc.) with the word diet in then the search window. below it is a gray box with a yellow circle it says Use a question mark within words to search for single character variations (women or woman) and an example with wom?n is inside the search box.

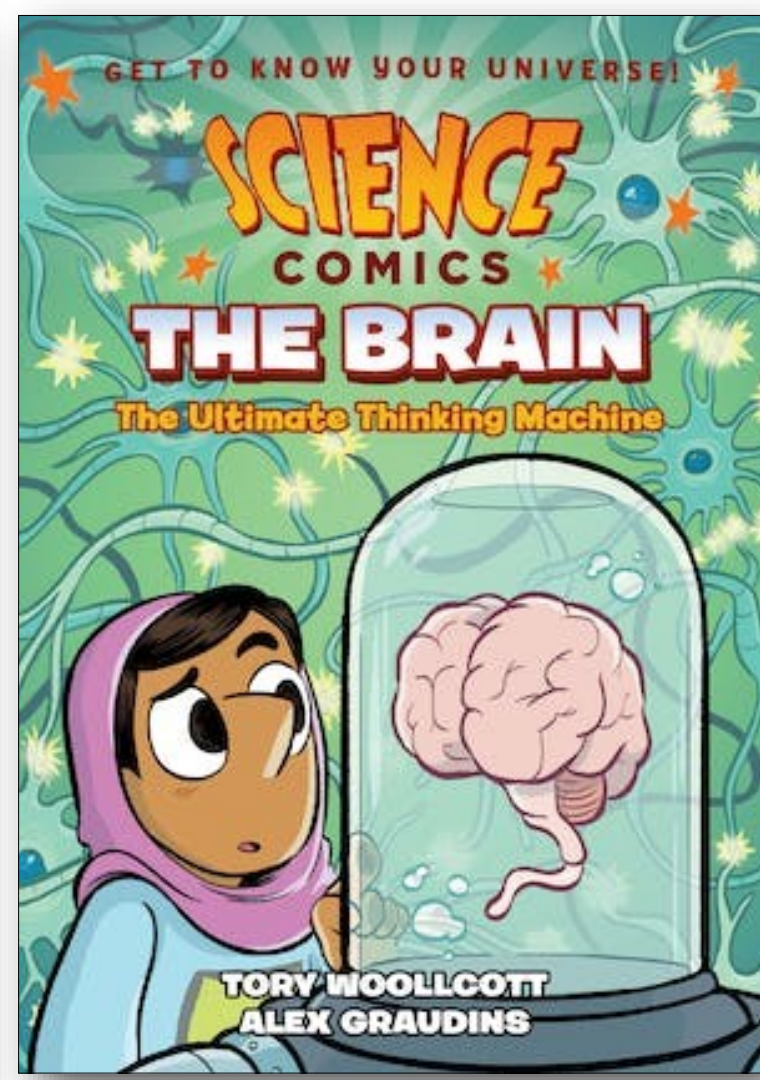
Can Virtual Library Practicum Be Successful?

A Practicum Student's Experience

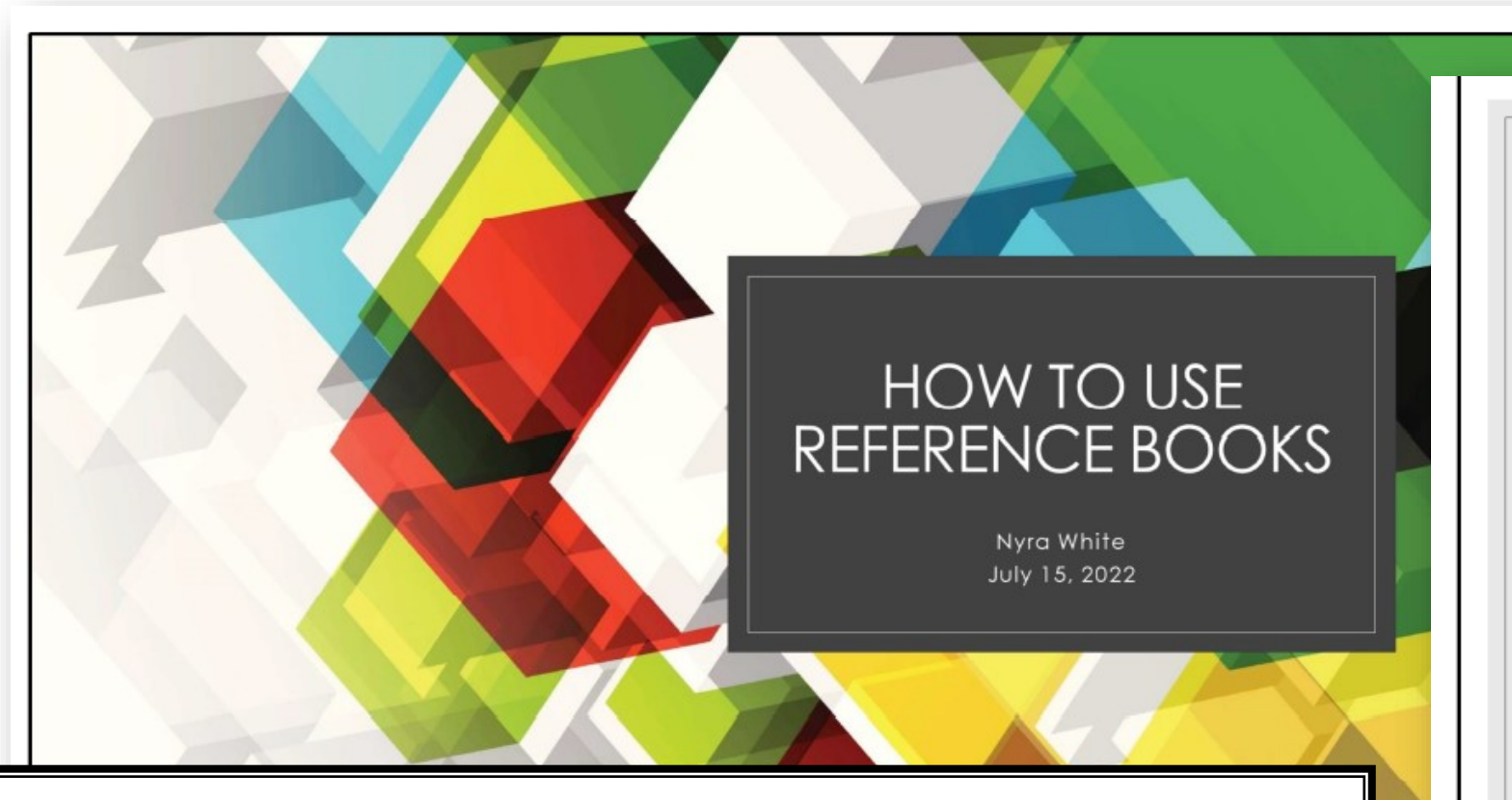
By: Nyra White and Justin Easterday

- Doing a virtual practicum turned out to be the best experience for me. I work full-time and during this summer I had to travel a few times. I brought my computer with me and was still able to complete a few practicum hours while traveling.
- During my instruction workshop, I learned that I was the first person to complete a virtual practicum at the Gulf Coast library, as well as this is the first time Justin is supervising a virtual practicum. This made me realize that the work Justin and I did can serve as a template for the next practicum student. I am very proud of our collaboration and work.

	A	B	C	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	2022 James	BUDGET	\$670.00	BUDGET	\$670.00				
2	Endowment	Expended	\$0.00	Estimated Cost					
3	TITLE	ISBN	PRICE	AUTHOR	PUBLISHER	YEAR	Grade Level	Nyra's Short Reason/Comments:	Justin's Question
4	5 Worlds Book 5: The Emerald Gate	9780593120606	19.59	rk Siegel & Alexis Sindom	House boi	2022	8-12 years	Science-fiction fantasy series; the sci-fi part could be educational	Very good reasoning, it could be educational. This is something that I would ill just to make sure that it does have some educational connection. I will say this does encourage reading, which is also an important in the k-12 world.
5	All My Friends	9780374388669	13.87	Hope Larsen	ar, Straus and Gi	2022	10-14 years	NYT Bestsellers book on friendship; part of Eagle Rock Series; non-educational	Good, the idea of friendship is important but we have to follow the terms of the endowment. Plus I believe you have already found a few educational/friendship books.
6	My Parents Won't Stop Talking	9781250800275	16.57	Hunsinger, Tilliw	Vbaring Brook Pre	2022	3-5 years	Teaches patience; comedy; Bestseller, part of a series on friendship & comedy; non-educational	Other than patience does it address anything else? Just like Row 6, friendship is important but we follow the endowment's goal K-12
7	Hilo Book 8: Gina and the Big Secret	9780593379660	11.83	Judd Winick	ndom House Bor	2022	8-12 years		We do have a few copies in McCain, but if it is a series that possibly educates (retell history) then we can buy a circulating copy, from this amazon page look to see if Charlie Thorne series is good.
8	Spy School	9781534455436	21.99	Stuart Gibbs	ster Books for Y	2022	9-12 years	Best seller converted to graphic novel; education reason: the school in the book focuses on science	It is not connected to education, a good part is it maybe helpful to encourage reading.
9	Glorik Patrol (Book Two): Glorik Patrol Takes a Bath	9781602095044	9.94	James Kochalka	p Shelf Productic	2022	4-8 years	Adventure Series; non-educational	Same as above
10	Behind the Scenes with Burt	9781524871277	11.81	Georgia Dunn	ws McMeel Pub	2022	9-12 years	Collection series; non-educational	Same as above
11	Investi Gators: Braver and Boulder	9781250220066	9.89	John Patrick Green	First Second	2022	7-10 years	NYT Bestseller, Comedy and adventure series; non-educational	Same as above
12	The Subtle Knife: The Graphic Novel	9780593176931	14.59	Philip Pullman	oods for Young	2022	10-12 years	Entry to dark series; made into HBO series; non-educational	
13	Took: A Ghost Story Graphic Novel	9780358536888	24.99	Mary Downing Hahr	Clarion Books	2022	8-12 years	Thriller; variety in collection	Perfect, it may have looked pretty but after reflecting it did not match the endowment objective
14	Max and the Midknights: The Tower of Time	9780593377895	12.59	Lincoln C. Peirce	ooks for Young	2022	8-12 years	NYT Bestseller; series; non-educational	Same as above
15	The Aquanaut	9780545497602	22.49	Dan Santat	Graphix	2022	8-12 years	Marine/sea subject; advent	Same as above



Collection Development: Working on the Collection Development project, I learned that finding books that meet the endowment requirement of being material to be used in a K-12 classroom is a big part of the collection development process. The most valuable lesson learned was that even if the books I find don't meet the requirements, the act of selecting and evaluating books for a collection requires understanding the readers and being able to defend my choices. While most of the books I found didn't meet the endowment criteria, some of the books were placed on a wish list and others were placed on a social justice grant collection list.



Introduction

- 20+ years in corporate marketing events & communications
- Bachelors in Marketing
- Masters in Journalism
- Academic or Corporate Librarian (second career)

Library Instruction: I worked on the library instruction workshop for four weeks. Justin reminded me that I should think of this as an instructor presenting to new freshman students who will be beginning to do college-level course research. This was helpful because I remember being nervous about the research aspect of college courses. So, this reminded me to not try to overload the presentation with information but that it can serve as an introduction to students. For the presentation, I had an audience of four librarians (including Justin). We had a short icebreaker, which made me more comfortable about presenting. I think with all the preparation, I felt fully prepared to present. While I was a little nervous, some of the feedback I received was that I seemed very comfortable with public speaking.



Reference Questions

Answering reference questions from library patrons

My question:
Hi, I'm an alumnus, and I see that my alumni association membership includes library privileges. I'm going to be in Hattiesburg tomorrow and would like to visit the library to do some research and would need to have a Zoom meeting too. With the library privileges, what internet access will I have?

Librarian Answer:
Hello, you can find more information on how to reserve a meeting space here: https://libguides.lib.usm.edu/welcome_cook_library/services

Also, you can bookmark the Alumni and Friends services page for future quick reference: https://lib.usm.edu/services/alumni/friendserv_mu.html

- Good, for the second link sentence you could include that the link also provides details on how to connect to the Wi-Fi and circulation information. Those are two popular details that are missing from the Associations page (it just says: "University library privileges (excluding remote access)")

Reference Questions: I learned the most about library service by answering patron reference questions as I really enjoyed searching for the answers and helping the patrons. I realized that I had only one chance to respond so in addition to providing an answer in my response to the patron, I also wanted to include directions on how to find what they were looking for.

Justin made me aware of how important it is to have collegiality when working at an institution with several libraries. Collegiality shows a sense of cooperation amongst the libraries. In helping patrons as the librarian, there were things I learned as well. Like when helping a patron find books, it's good to let them know if they find an eBook that they should first write down all the citation information just in case it disappears. It's tips like this that I think you only gain from experience as a librarian.

Justin provided great feedback on each of my responses for the ones I did respond to. I think this project will give me a real-life experience of being a reference librarian.

			Required (mintues)	9000
			Completed	9000
Date	Reported Time	Time (min)	Remaining (mintues)	0
5/16/22	7:30 - 9:15	105		
5/18/22	8:30 - 10:45	135	Updated Planned Weekly	10.67
5/19/22	3:00 - 4:00	60	Weekly Meeting	
5/23/22	7:15 - 9:15	120		
5/24/22	7:30-8:30	60	*Having computer issues; so had to cut work down to 1 hour; completing 2023 endowment list; will make up the extra hour this week	
5/25/22	8:30-10:00	90		
5/26/22	9:00 - 10:45	105	LibGuide Training/ Weekly Meeting	
	7:00-8:30	90	Endowment list	
5/27/22	7:15-8:15	60	Endowment list / Skipped Weekly Meeting	
5/31/22	4:30-6:30	120	Added 2 sections to LibGuide; searched for LIS syllabus; endowment research	**If needed tomorrow
6/1/22	9:15-11:30	135	Endowment list	
6/2/22	3:30-4:30	60	Made tab links user-friendly in Virtual practicum 100 LibGuide page; updated endowment list	
	8:15-10:15	120	Researched more graphic novels and added books to the endowment list (lines 27-50)	
6/3/22	2:00-3:00	60	Weekly Meeting	
6/5/22	8:30-9:30	60	Researching graphic novels; african-american culture/characters	

- To help stay organized and focused on the practicum goals set, during the first week Justin created a Teams file with shared documents we collaborated on throughout the practicum. We also set regular weekly meetings. By week 6, we assessed what projects needed more attention and developed a schedule for the rest of the practicum. With the set schedule, I was able to focus on completing collection development, the instruction workshop and set collaboration meetings to work on the LibGuide project together, which allowed me to resolve any issues I had, and Justin explained accessibility elements.

The University of Southern Mississippi, School of Library and Information Science
 LIS 689: Library Practicum (Virtual)

July 28, 2022:

- Confirmed LIS 501 LibGuide was complete
- All evidence documents have been saved as PDFs and if needed combined into a single PDF file
- Reviewed/confirmed all needed documents will be sent to Dr. Mangrum
- Justin: PDF and create HTML Backup links for LIS 501
- Had discussion about how to answer the extra reference questions
- After a short breather, will meet and talk about the 2022 MLA Conference Lighting Round

July 25, 2022:

- Look over the checklist to see if we did not cover something.

July 22, 2022:

- Last night (21st) reviewed which LibGuide tabs still need work, only a few minor edits are needed
 - Home** – Complete (except for optional boxes) **kept all boxes just rearranged page**
 - Encyclopedias**: Relocate some listed books (optional: add more info) **done**
 - Missing URLs**
 - Books**: Few items (mostly Justin)
 - Add note box if alt text was added to book covers
 - Justin: If keeping more info icon, when creating a PDF version will change that to display under ISBN to make visible. With the HMTL Backup can keep more info icon
 - Justin: Add default alt text to Suggested Search Terms infographic
 - Book alt text (your pick)
 - Book More info description
 - Justin: Listen to NVDA to determine if - reads has dash.
 - Articles**: Few items (mostly Nyra)
 - Add alt text to Truncation, Wildcard, and other Methods infographic **(Done)**
 - Spot why the Boolean title is different that the Truncation title **(Changed Truncation font size to 18)**
 - Find Boolean title to make the contents of the box **(Revised titles)**
 - Surprisingly this is an accessibility standard, it connects to screen readers and skimming the page. Title (Header) gives an idea of what is in the box
 - And additional options
 - Journals**: (Nyra)
 - Map Journals by Title (with infographic and mainly to make sure know how to map)
 - Keep or Delete the mapped box**
 - Summaries for Featured Journals **(done)** - **Explain beyond peer-review**
 - Correct those evil “experts” and unhighlight “Librarian” **(done)**
 - Anything optional

Reference Questions

Answering reference questions from library patrons

My question::

How do you know if you have any outstanding library charges?

Librarian Answer:

Hello, you can go to the USM Library site here (<https://lib.usm.edu/>) and once there you will see “My Library Account” in the left menu list. Click here and log-in using your current student credentials. After logging in, you will be taken to a “My Account” page where you will see if you have any fees or fines owed to the library. If you do have outstanding fees you can pay them through the site.

Let us know if you are unable to locate the “My Account” page.

You can also call the library directly at 601-266-4250.

- Very good, clear directions on where to go to access My Account. In the future one thing to keep in mind for your future library job is how you refer/call the log-in credentials. At USM we use a mix of saying Campus ID or SOAR log-in information, both state that we want you to enter w# and password.