RESEARCH SUPPORT FOR ONLINE GRADUATE STUDENTS AT WESTERN’S FACULTY OF EDUCATION ~ WESTERN LIBRARIES AND EDUCATION LIBRARY

My name is Denise Horoky. My official title is the Research and Instructional Services Librarian. The title is long but my job description is easy. It states:

*Denise answers questions!*

I have been supporting graduate students here at the Faculty of Education for over 25 years. In the past 12 years my job has evolved into almost exclusively supporting **ONLINE** graduate students through the research process as they find research resources for their proposals and literature reviews. The term **Virtual Librarian** has not caught on yet but in reality I am your Virtual Librarian.

**So, I am here to support each one of you.**

What that support exactly looks like will be as individualistic as each of us here. Research consultations in person, online or by phone are highly recommended.

This help guide will highlight some of the unique features found on the Western Libraries’ website to situate you within the Western context.

**Always start your research at the Western Libraries website:**  [www.lib.uwo.ca](http://www.lib.uwo.ca)

When you are working from off campus always remember to log into the **OFF CAMPUS ACCESS** option so that you get the full text of all of the amazing resources Western has to offer.

The **LIBRARY CATALOGUE** is available in a couple of places on the web page. The catalogue can be a very powerful tool for finding research resources for proposals and literature reviews. You have access to all Canadian university libraries so if you find a book through the library catalogue you may be able to get that same book at an academic library near you. We also courier books (within Canada) to online students. So, give the catalogue a try and contact me if you have any question about searching the catalogue:  dhoroky@uwo.ca
The library website defaults to a SUMMON search. Summon is a Western Libraries search tool that is designed mimic the look and feel of a Google search. However, instead of searching the web, Summon is performing a global search of all of the Western Libraries large collections of books, e-books, journals and journal articles. Many of the journal articles are available in full text and can be read online from Summon. There will also be direct links to the electronic access to books through Summon.

Give Summon a try and please contact me if you have any questions about searching Summon: dhoroky@uwo.ca
RESEARCH GUIDES (listed under DATABASES):

When you hover over the RESEARCH option along the top tab of the Western Libraries website, you will be presented with a drop-down menu of choices.

I want to mention RESEARCH GUIDES because the Academic Librarians at Western have created these wonderful “Getting Started” RESEARCH GUIDES for almost every research area at Western University. These guides list the best places to start your research in any field.
Each **RESEARCH GUIDE** will also provide the name of an Academic Librarian at Western is available to answer your questions as well. There is contact information for the various Academic Librarians right on the Research Guides.

So, here at Western you actually have a whole team of Academic Librarians supporting your through the research process!

Once again, I am your first point of contact should you require library research support and I can refer you to my colleagues also: dhoroky@uwo.ca
Also listed under the RESEARCH tab are the **RESEARCH DATABASES**.

Many of you are familiar with research databases. Many of will have a great deal of searching expertise already.

However, if you need a “refresher” on database searching, finding appropriate keywords for your research topic, or if you wish to learn more about advanced searching techniques within the research databases, please contact me: dhoroky@uwo.ca

Each database usually has a plethora of **online help**, tips and tricks and an online Thesaurus to help you find appropriate keywords for finding research resources related to your topic. Keywords can also be found through your professional reading and through peer-to-peer discussions within your courses.

The **RESEARCH DATABASES** are listed **alphabetical by title** and they are also **listed by subject**. The subject listing is extremely helpful for researchers because
research in education crosses over and dovetails with so many other fields and disciplines.

Here is the list of the EDUCATION RESEARCH DATABASES to get you started. You will also find these listed on the alphabetical list of research databases on the Western Libraries website:

1. CBCA Education (for Canadian/Ontario education related journal articles)
2. Dissertations and Theses (all fields including education)
3. ERIC (still some problems with ERIC - use with caution!)
4. Education Research Complete
5. ProQuest Education Journals
6. Professional Development Collection
7. PsycINFO
You can also use the Western Libraries free and convenient chat reference service called **ASK A LIBRARIAN** which is available from the Western Libraries website. The contact information and hours of service are all available when you click on the link:

Contact Denise Horoky: [dhoroky@uwo.ca](mailto:dhoroky@uwo.ca) or by phone 519-661-2111 ext 88275
EDUCATION LIBRARY WEBSITE

Each Library location within Western Libraries has their own webpage. The webpages are all listed under the LOCATION tab along the top of the Western Libraries website.

Have a look at the Education Library’s page for more useful information directly related to our research resources. You will see links to our Instructional Videos, our Education Library Blog and links to other social media like Facebook and Twitter.

Contact Denise Horoky: dhoroky@uwo.ca or by phone 519-661-2111 ext 88275
EDUCATION LIBRARY BLOG (and other Social Media)

The final piece of information I would like to leave with you is perhaps the most important! The Education Library has a Blog and we use this Blog to keep in constant communication with our graduate students (onsite and online). It is one-stop shopping for keeping up with library research news. You will find much more information about library and research support than I was able to present to you today including information about our Help Videos, Research News, Copyright, Citation Management, Scholarly Communication and Open Access. We also showcase our new research resources including our research resources with electronic access which can be very useful for online graduate students.

Please take a look at the Education Library Blog often and scroll down through older entries to find important research information. If you are Social Media user, the Education Library also has active Facebook and Twitter pages available on the Education Library’s website.

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