Timing is Everything: Librarians and Faculty Connect to Create Effective First Year Library Instruction

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The main function of library instruction is to support the faculty’s curriculum and to assist students in their research goals. For a research paper, library instruction is one of the necessary first steps in the writing process. Timing the visit as such is important, so students are prepared with topics to research. As they start the process, they begin to understand that the decisions they make as they search—narrowing, focusing, note taking, and evaluating—will comprise the foundation of their paper: the thesis statement, introduction and outline. When faculty and librarians collaborate before instruction, students benefit from having a clearer understanding of the faculty’s assignment and an expectation of how the library’s resources will help them to write a successful research paper.

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