new purchases for your research & teaching

The library works to develop a collection that supports and strengthens your teaching and research. If you need books, films, or other materials that the library does not already own or license, please submit a purchase request, or contact your subject librarian directly. We are happy to accept specific title requests or broad recommendations for building the collection (some faculty members send us catalogs, syllabi they’re working on, lists of books, even photos of books in bookstore windows—it all works!).

course reserves

The library’s reserve service makes course materials readily available to students, either physically in the library or electronically from your course Moodle page. You can contact the library or your ADC to make sure the materials are available for your course.

expensive or recurring purchases

Feel free to contact your librarian to recommend databases and items that are more expensive or that require a recurring subscription. Our Collection Development Group reviews these recommendations quarterly, evaluating them in the context of current teaching and research at the college, potential use, and existing coverage at the Five Colleges.

Check out our new trial resources page to view databases we have recently subscribed to or are trialing.

events

You can learn about upcoming events and drop-in workshops for students by checking our events calendar, visiting our Facebook page, or contacting your librarian directly. Some upcoming events include:

- **September 23rd, 5:00 – 6:15 PM**, Friendly Reading Room: New Faculty Reception
- **October 29th, 4:30 – 6:00 PM**, Friendly Reading Room: Favorite Poem Reading with former Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky

Research & Instruction Department Updates

Research Instruction Spotlight

**Course:** Research in Black Studies (BLST 300), Spring ‘15
**Professor:** Rhonda Cobham-Sander

**Behind the scenes:** Prior to Spring 2015, R&I Librarian Dunstan McNutt and Instructional Designer hari stephen kumar met with Rhonda Cobham-Sander to review her Research in Black Studies course syllabus, paying particular attention to the structure and scaffolding of assignments. Together, they selected new readings to provide examples of different historical, qualitative, and quantitative research. They then developed a series of workshops that were sequenced strategically throughout the semester to help students develop the research skills the course demanded.

**Library workshop series included sessions on:**
- Using archival sources
- Choosing a topic and developing research questions
- Identifying scholarly conversations and developing a literature review
- Interviewing methods

**Research appointments:** BLST 300 students relied on Dunstan’s support outside of the classroom, scheduling research appointments and frequently visiting him at the reference desk.

**Library instruction**

If you want to explore instruction possibilities for this or next semester, contact your subject librarian today!

You can also encourage your students to make a research appointment with your librarian, either directly or using our research appointment request form. We are happy to provide research support for your Academic Interns, either one-on-one or through our training sessions in the fall.

The library periodically hosts drop-in workshops on citation management (Zotero) and finding and using images for research. Check the library homepage or our events calendar for upcoming dates.

course & research guides

Librarians create course and subject-specific research guides to help students get started with research. These guides direct students to appropriate disciplinary or interdisciplinary resources, both online and in the physical library. The subject guides also include a regularly updated list of new titles purchased for that discipline.

www.amherst.edu/library