

News from Saint Mary's University Library

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Library Launches Academic Integrity Foundations course in Brightspace

Over the past year, Information Literacy Librarian Heather Sanderson (heather.sanderson@smu.ca) and Instructional Development Librarian Cindy Harrigan (cindy.harrigan@smu.ca), with the help of SIM student Rachel Moylan, created an assignment designed to educate students about academic integrity. Academic Integrity Foundations (AIF) is made up of five modules, each with a self-testing quiz, and includes a pre-test and a graded final test on topics such as proper citations and how to avoid mistakes like plagiarism. The scenarios and examples used in AIF are interdisciplinary, so this assignment is applicable to a wide range of courses.

The assignment was successfully piloted in Winter 2021 with several classes and is now ready for use in any class at Saint Mary's.

Another Successful Research Toolkit

Back by popular demand, the library's Research Toolkit workshops ran again this spring from May 10-13. Originally in-person workshops, the Research Toolkit successfully moved online last spring, drawing an impressive crowd of research assistants, teaching assistants, and graduate students looking to brush up on their research abilities. The workshops are a great opportunity for students to connect with one another and with librarians, ask questions, and expand their research skills and knowledge.

"The Research Toolkit is designed to provide a solid foundation for students who need to develop advanced research skills," explains Heather Sanderson, Information Literacy Librarian, and co-creator of the workshops.

Sessions include key topics such as citation searching, using library tools such as Web of Science; effective searching of Google and Google Scholar to find grey literature, like theses and reports; and finding and using data and statistics. Students also learn the ins and outs of bibliographic management tools such as RefWorks to help them keep their research organized.

New Look, New Plan

The library has been working away at improving our web and social media presence in preparation for a new Saint Mary's brand, which rolls out starting June 1. Additionally, library staff have been deeply involved in planning sessions for the university's new strategic plan.

Welcome, SIM students!

We are thrilled to welcome Dal SIM students Ratna, Jordan, and Kory to the team this summer from May until August.

SMU students, Library, and Dr. Jason Ivanoff Team Up to Add New Covid Collection to Institutional Repository

What will future generations see when they look back at the Covid-19 pandemic? How will future Saint Mary's students understand the pressures of lockdowns, travel restrictions, and the rollout of a new vaccine while also handling the usual stress of academic life? What were students' thoughts and feelings during the last year as they lived through historic moments such as the Black Lives Matter protests?

A new project by Dr. Jason Ivanoff's PSYCH 4411 students sought to capture a snapshot of this moment in time, and how Saint Mary's students experienced it.

"At the start of the pandemic there was a kind of soft fascination for pictures and stories of the 1918 pandemic," explained Dr. Ivanoff. "We wanted to create something for future Santamarians, providing them with a sense of the SMU student experience during the COVID-19 pandemic."

Thus, *The COVID-19 Pandemic: Perspectives of Saint Mary's University Students in 2021* was born, a document that includes summary research and qualitative data on a variety of SMU student experiences over the last year.

"I think the students rather enjoyed this project as it fostered a sense of camaraderie and collaboration in this 'dual-mode' (i.e., in-person and on-line) course," says Dr. Ivanoff. "The formatting of the report is a bit unusual because it was initially intended to be a large group poster. We shifted gears to present it as a report for the library archives when we didn't have a suitable venue for a poster and the content started to expand significantly."

Librarian and archivist Hansel Cook jumped at the chance to add an exciting new project to the growing collection of university-created material. The subject dovetails nicely with the University Archives' mission of preserving Saint Mary's history, and the report is now freely accessible through the Patrick Power Library's digital repository.

"The Institutional Repository contains theses, peer-reviewed papers, original publications, student work, and much more, and we are happy we can quickly publish timely and relevant projects like this one," said Cook.

The collection contains the "raw and unedited" results of a survey of SMU students, for whom the pandemic lockdown has been, according to Dr. Ivanoff, a "unique stressor."

"This report underlined students' challenges with an uncertain future, remote learning, meeting new people, mental health, drug abuse/addictions, etc., but fortunately it's not all doom-and-gloom," said Dr. Ivanoff.

"Students recognize the lethality of the virus and have followed public health guidelines. They have a healthy skepticism of (mis)information posted to social media and are ready to take the vaccine when it

is available to them. They have been supportive of their fellow students who have struggled with mental health.”

Referring to the lessons learned from the project and resulting report, Dr. Ivanoff’s pride in his students’ success is clear.

“This student report highlights something we already know: our students are our greatest strength, and we need to continue to provide them with multifaceted support and scholarly experiences as we start to see the light at the end of this pandemic tunnel,” he said.

“My hope is that it will hold some relevance when COVID-19 is in our rearview mirror.”

[Explore this document in the Saint Mary’s institutional repository.](#)