Services for Faculty, Instructors, and Teaching Assistants During the Closure

Librarians are continuing to provide our professional expertise and a range of remote services during the current closure to faculty and students. We are working remotely to assist your teaching and student learning. Please contact us as early as possible to discuss the following services.

Course Reserves & Syllabus Service

We offer syllabus service to support instructors in their teaching and to make course readings available to students while respecting Canadian copyright provisions and existing licensing agreements on library materials.

Our print collections are not currently accessible and our library will not be able to offer print course reserves service in the fall term (we are currently assessing whether we will be able to do so in the winter term).

However, we are able to assist faculty and instructors with making course readings available to students for the upcoming fall and winter semesters, using our extensive ebook and digital collections: please see the section below on electronic resources for more information.

Submitting Your Request

Please submit your course syllabus with a complete reading list to reserves [at] vicu [dot] utoronto [dot] ca and include the following details:

- the course name and course code
- instructor’s name and contact information
- the number of students in your course.

Once electronic reserves are prepared, they will be available on Quercus: please consult the web site of the Scholarly Communications and Copyright Office for information on accessing electronic course readings.

Additional Services for Course Reading Lists

Our support for your teaching can also include the following services:

- finding online versions or online alternatives of the required readings for your courses
- purchasing or licensing specific ebooks, when available, that are needed by your students
- compiling lists of online sources tailored to your assignment topics
- consultation on developing assignments that incorporate information literacy skills.

Please contact Colin Deinhardt, Reader Services and Instruction Librarian (colin [dot] deinhardt [at] vicu [dot] utoronto [dot] ca) to discuss your course reading needs and we will ensure a librarian follows up with you soon.
Reading Lists

The library would like to receive copies of your syllabi and/or recommended reading lists for possible print and/or online acquisition, in order to better support the Victoria College curriculum. If you need multiple copies, e-books, and/or print copies, please indicate.


Electronic Textbooks

We understand that the cost of textbooks and other course materials are a barrier for students at every university. However, e-textbooks available for sale on publisher websites are for individual use only, and not available to the academic library marketplace.

Please consult “Support of Textbooks Remains a Challenge for Libraries in Online Environment” (UTL) for more information.

Electronic Resources

Books from our print collections are not currently available for borrowing. However, faculty and students have online reading access to pre-2004 in-copyright volumes in the HathiTrust Digital Library for which a print copy is also held by U of T.

Ebooks can be accessed by searching the library catalogue. More information on ebook platforms and collections available to faculty and students is posted on the UTL website.

The libraries continue to provide access to the existing journal databases, digital collections, and other electronic resources.

Streaming video collections (including new releases, documentaries, and cinema classics) are described on the Media Commons page.

Online exhibitions curated by faculty and librarians incorporate images, archival records, journals, and other historical materials on various topics in Canadian and international history. Please contact one of our reference librarians if you have any questions about the availability of electronic resources.

Teaching Services & Library Instruction Program

Our librarians support university teaching in a number of ways by helping students to develop essential academic research and information skills.

Library Research Workshops

Professors and instructors are encouraged to contact Colin Deinhardt, Reader Services and Instruction Librarian (colin [dot] deinhardt [at] vicu [dot] utoronto [dot] ca), to arrange for a library workshop tailored to course requirements.

Teaching is designed to meet the learning outcomes of your course. Librarians guide students in developing specific research skills, such as narrowing down topics, creating effective search strategies, and locating authoritative research sources.
Our support for student learning can include:

- creating online research guides linked in Quercus to point your students to the best resources and databases for their course work
- customized instruction in real time through videoconferencing, based on the learning objectives of your course
- developing instruction videos or other learning objects to teach research skills and help navigate library resources
- hosting virtual office hours to assist students with research on a drop-in basis or participating in class discussion boards.

A Checklist for Requesting a Workshop

We request the following information to help us prepare for a workshop:

- proposed date(s) of the session to provide us with a couple of options. Please note we require at least a two-week advance notice to ensure the availability of our librarians, write a lesson plan, create an online research guide, and prepare supplementary materials. Library instruction is most beneficial to students when it takes place at least two to three weeks before a research assignment is due. Therefore, please contact the librarian as soon as possible or at least one month prior to the due date
- course title, code, description, and section
- a current version of the course syllabus
- a copy of the research assignment(s)
- any specific research resources you would like us to introduce to your students, such as the library catalogue, a particular journal database or a digital collection
- the number of students registered in your class
- the preferred method of delivery: live instruction or pre-recorded video and/or relevant how-to-instructions for locating and assessing supporting research.

If it is not possible to provide all items on the checklist, please contact us to discuss alternatives. We attempt to accommodate every request we receive for library instruction.

Quercus & Online Teaching Support

Information on hosting your lectures online, hosting virtual office hours, and other topics is available on Quercus and is provided by the A&S IIT Teaching Technology Support.

Librarians offer personalized support and training for using Quercus and its integrated tools:

- content presentation, course design or assignment settings
- troubleshooting, “walk-throughs” of Quercus tools and features.

Below are some contacts for Quercus assistance:

- for support for VIC-coded courses in Quercus, please contact the librarian you have worked with previously or Diane Michaud (Reader Services and Instruction Librarian), diane [dot] michaud [at] utoronto [dot] ca
- Arts & Science Information & Instructional Technology Team is also available for support at this email address: tts [dot] artsci [at] utoronto [dot] ca
• general U of T support for Quercus (and integrated technologies) is available from the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation: q [dot] help [at] utoronto [dot] ca.

Research Consultations

Students are encouraged to schedule individual research appointments with our reference librarians. Consultations are customized to the research requirements of particular assignments. Meetings take place online via Blackboard Collaborate.

Please contact us for assistance with a specific course and consider including our contact information on the course syllabus, along with mention of our online research consultation service.

Recommend a Title for Our Collection

Print and electronic books, journals, and other resources that are not listed in the library catalogue can be recommended for inclusion in the library collection. To suggest a title, please contact Carmen Socknat, Head, Bibliographic Services (carmen [dot] socknat [at] utoronto [dot] ca).

Readers’ Advisory Service

The goal of the readers’ advisory service is to encourage lifelong learning through purposeful extracurricular reading of books and to guide students in the discovery of the library’s collection.

We will assist you and/or your students with creating supplementary reading lists on topics associated with your course. Please contact Agatha Barc, Reader Services and Instruction Librarian (agatha [dot] barc [at] vicu [dot] utoronto [dot] ca) if you would like to submit a request.

Resources for Teaching & Learning Online

Advice and resources on preparing and building your courses, engaging students, assessing learning, and other considerations associated with delivering your course remotely are available from the Centre for Teaching Support and Innovation.

Additional guidance and resources, including pedagogical consultations and advice on selecting the most appropriate tools for online engagement with students, are available from the Faculty of Arts and Science. Virtual support sessions on designing your course page in Quercus, teaching your first class online, and other topics will be offered throughout August and the fall semester.

Strategies and resources for students related to online learning are also available from the university.

Recommended Technology Requirements for Remote & Online Learning

Information on minimum technical requirements needed for students to access remote/online learning are available through Office of the Vice-Provost, Students.

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