

Fall 2020 Library Orientation + Creative Practice [In-classroom/Synchronous]

Purpose + Goals

This session, designed for SAIC's Research Studio course, empowers new undergraduate students to understand the concept of creative research and how they may already be engaging in it. Additionally it will give them an overview of how to best use the library both in person and online to maximize their research during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tools being used in this session

- Flaxman's website www.saic.edu/library
- Run in a Zoom. If we are added to an ongoing appointment, make the librarian the Host to be able to enable BreakOut Rooms. If class isn't using Zoom, work with faculty on creating small groups.
- Web browser or smart phone to access Miro (virtual mind mapping tool)
- [This presentation deck](#)

Full session runs around 60 mins in total

1. Introduction (5-7 mins): Librarian introduces themselves, including preferred pronouns, and gives a brief overview of the library, including procedures for connecting with a librarian and getting items from the library [maybe include a link out to documentation on this] and research support services.

Give them an overview of what we will be doing:

1. Creative Research, platforms like Instagram
2. Learning about how to use the library search to find relevant materials
3. Creating Mind Maps in groups
4. Sharing out as a group about what was easy, hard, confusing etc.
5. Q+A

2. Discussion (5 min): What is creative research? As artists and designers, we don't always have the same limitations people in other fields do on how we approach research. Work with the class to identify what we think of as traditional research strategies (reading, Googling, experiments, etc.) and what special kinds of research artists might have at their disposal.

★ *Librarian Asks:* What do you do when we want to know more about art/artists/something we want to make art about (ex. visiting galleries, walking through a city, listening to music, artist lectures, etc.)?

- Mentimeter url <https://www.menti.com/3z4ezutp6g>

★ Librarian shares screen: Instagram example / walkthrough, using hashtags and gallery accounts as an example of how this is the same process as "research"

3. Introduce Mind Maps (2-3 min): Brief discussion of mind maps. Describe them as ways to visualize

ideas and thoughts without having to be linear about it. Mind maps are a great tool for brainstorming because you are also able to see connections between concepts. They can be simple, graphic, beautiful, iterative:

- <https://www.gandy-gallery.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/News/wop-001.jpeg>
- <https://www.flickr.com/photos/lemermeyer/3205467418/>
- <http://www.wardshelley.com/paintings/pages/jpegs/Counter-Culture-v.1sm.jpg>

4. Collaborative Mind Map [8-10 mins]: Now that students have seen an example of mind maps - we want to create one together as a class.

1. Open Miro.com app → send URL to chat [https://miro.com/app/board/o9J_kmPGKPY=/]
2. Quick demonstration of how to use Miro
3. Start with an image → add one branch of terms
4. Ask students to add at least 2-3 words or branches to each of these terms (no repeats!)

5. Discussion (3-5 min):

- ★ Librarian asks: What are some common threads we saw in the mind maps? Students may be reluctant to speak up, so have some examples of things you saw.
- ★ Debrief: What ideas or terms were they unfamiliar with? Are there other connections that they might be able to find once looking at the whole map?

6. Brief overview of library website + searching (10 min)

- ★ Librarian demonstrates Search Almost Everything, focusing on online materials.
 - Mention spelling, identity terms (*indigenous vs native american vs first nations*), etc. and that it is good to think about these before starting your search
- ★ Brief overview of the updated library search, including item type and location
- ★ Requesting materials from our library + I-Share
- ★ Add items found back on the original Mind Map to mirror future activity

7. Student Exploration / Think, Pair, Share (Timed, 10 mins)

1. Split Students into groups, assign them a new mind map (sending this info depends on platform):
 - Group 1 : https://miro.com/app/board/o9J_koaF5xo=/
 - Group 2 : https://miro.com/app/board/o9J_koaFsLY=/
 - Group 3 : https://miro.com/app/board/o9J_koaA4ZQ=/
2. Using the image, word, song, text, or clip -- students will fill out the new mind map, and must include the following:
 - At least 6 total concepts (they can be words or short phrases)
 - At least 1 new branch off of each concept you added (a secondary branch)
 - Using words generated from this discussion, they must search the library and find:
 - 1 Print Book
 - 1 Online resource of their choice
 - Add the URL's to their group mind map, and copy down the location of the item.

8. WRAP-UP (10 min)

- 1 person from each group talks about their mind maps, discuss difficulties or surprises
- Take Questions from students via online chat

Remind everyone that help is available both via chat and email. End with Contact Information on the Library homepage.

Post Session

- Send email to faculty that includes FindIt Library Guide + survey

Learning Objectives

1. Students will gain an understanding that research is an open-ended, iterative exploration and a continuous engagement with information
2. Students will value persistence, adaptability, and flexibility and recognize that ambiguity can benefit the research process

(ACRL: Research As Inquiry, SAIC Core Value: Explorers)

3. Students will be able to navigate the updated library search and identify appropriate materials.

Assessment

- Librarians will assess small group mind maps for keyword generation techniques
- Librarians will check the resources that students recorded to assess their ability to navigate the library search tool.

Script For Librarians

Small Group Activity:

1. In small groups you will create a mind map around the item in the center of your map. Here is the link to your Miro Mind Map: [\[insert link\]](#)
2. Work together to fill out the Mind Map. Then, search the library using the keywords you generated in your map, record your findings in the yellow box on your Miro Map. Be sure to find 1 Online Resource and 1 Book. You will be given 10 Mins for this.
3. Then, we will meet back in the room (zoom or in person) and one person from each group will share out to the class how this process went.