Using Library Resources

All ODU students—on campus and distance—have access to the Library’s services and resources. To access online resources such as journals, databases, ebooks, etc., from off campus you need to have an active MIDAS account. When you access these items from the Library’s website, you will be prompted to enter your MIDAS user name and password.

Getting Help

If you have questions about the Library, its services, accessing and using resources, etc., there are a number of ways to get more help:

- Call the Reference & Research Services (through the Learning Commons) at 757-683-4178 (the Office of Distance Learning at 1-800-968-2638 can also transfer you to this number Monday-Friday during business hours)
- Chat
- Ask-A-Librarian
- Contact the Health Science Reference Librarian. You can always contact the Health Sciences Reference Librarian, Charity Karcher—the best way is via email at ckarcher@odu.edu. Telephone: 757-683-5908

Perry Library Contact Information

- Reference & Research Services; Learning Commons: 757-683-4178
- Hours and general information is available at http://www.odu.edu/library/about.html
- Info on parking, campus maps, etc., is available at http://www.odu.edu//life/parking-and-transportation/parking

Getting Started Using Library Resources

It can be difficult to know where to begin when it comes to finding and using library resources. What resources you use depends on your topic and the type of information you need. First of all, take some time to develop and clarify your research topic. Having a clear and specific research topic or question will make searching easier.

If you need research articles, use the Library’s databases. Many of these resources index the contents of academic journals and include online full text access to individual articles. Select Find Databases A-Z on the homepage. Databases can be accessed by title or by subject—including the health sciences. CINAHL and PUBMED are good for finding articles on health topics.

If you need to know if the Library has a particular journal, use Journals A-Z. If the Library has the journal, the search results will display whether access is via print or online (or both). For online access, you will see the coverage dates and link. As with other online resources, you will be prompted for your MIDAS user name and password to access the online journal.

Do you need books, government documents, videos? Try using the online ODU Only Catalog link on the Library’s Homepage. You can search for specific items by author or title, or by keyword to find materials on a topic. The catalog will display what the Library has in the collection. Materials such as ebooks or online government documents are also in the
catalog, which includes the links to the online items, display what the Library has in the collection. Materials such as ebooks or online government documents are also in the catalog, which includes the links to the online items.

If you are **onsite**, you can check out materials using your ODU ID.

For **distance students**, if you want to check out ODU Library books or get a copy of a print journal article, you can request that library materials be sent to you. On the Library’s homepage, select Interlibrary Loan under Library Services to set up an account to use this free service. **More information for distance students** is available at [http://guides.lib.odu.edu/distance](http://guides.lib.odu.edu/distance)

What if I need an item--like a book or an article--that the Library doesn’t have? Interlibrary Loan can request materials from other libraries for you. On the Library’s homepage, select Interlibrary Loan under Library Services to set up an account to use this free service.

**Perry Library Homepage:** [http://www.odu.edu/library](http://www.odu.edu/library)

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