# LibraryDen: an open online asynchronous information literacy course

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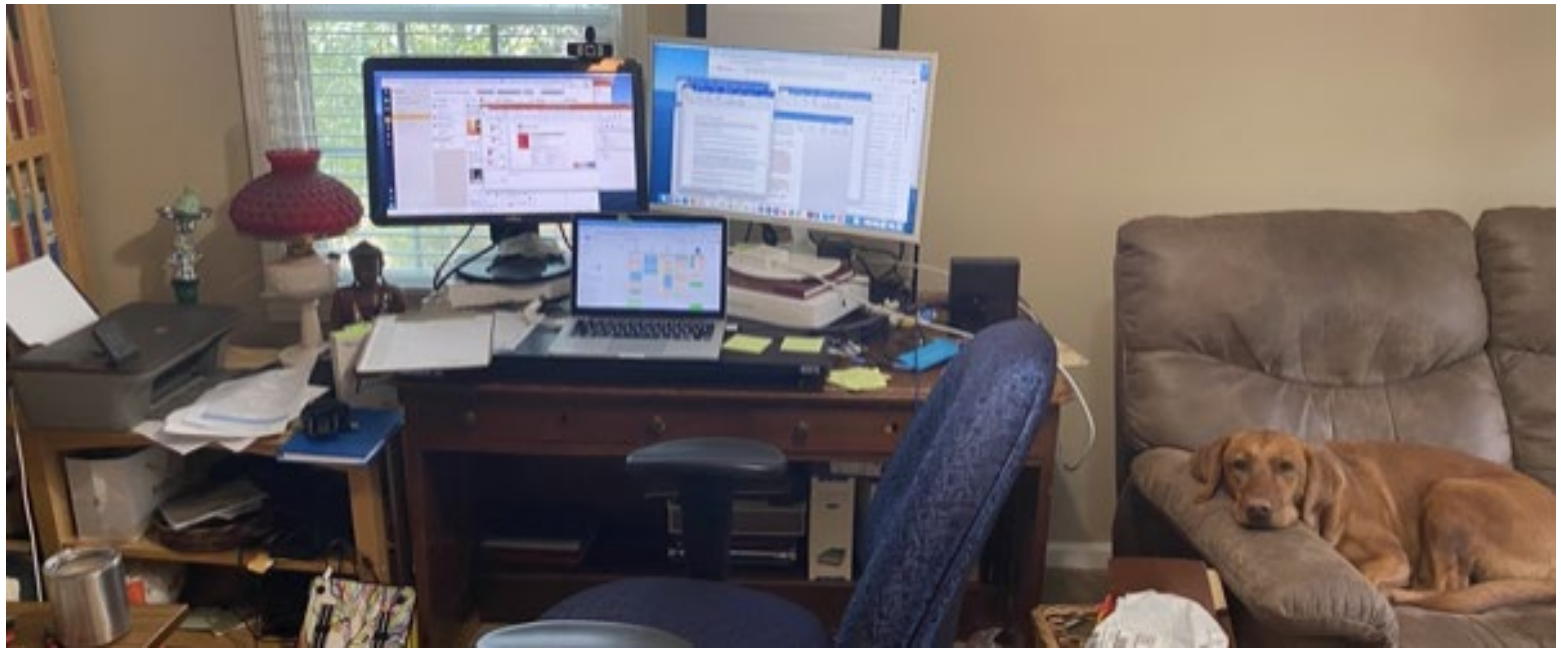
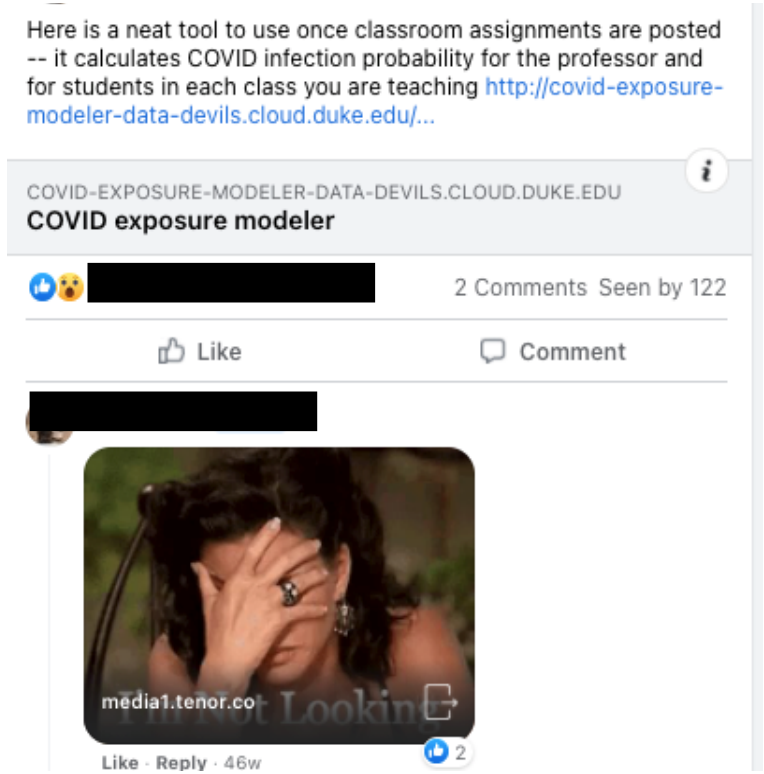
24 June 2021

# Challenges

- Reduction from 16 (Fall 2018) to 11 (Spring 2020) librarians
- Need for scalable and sustainable information literacy instruction
- Need for online and asynchronous options
- COVID-19 (remote work)



# Faculty & Staff  Panic



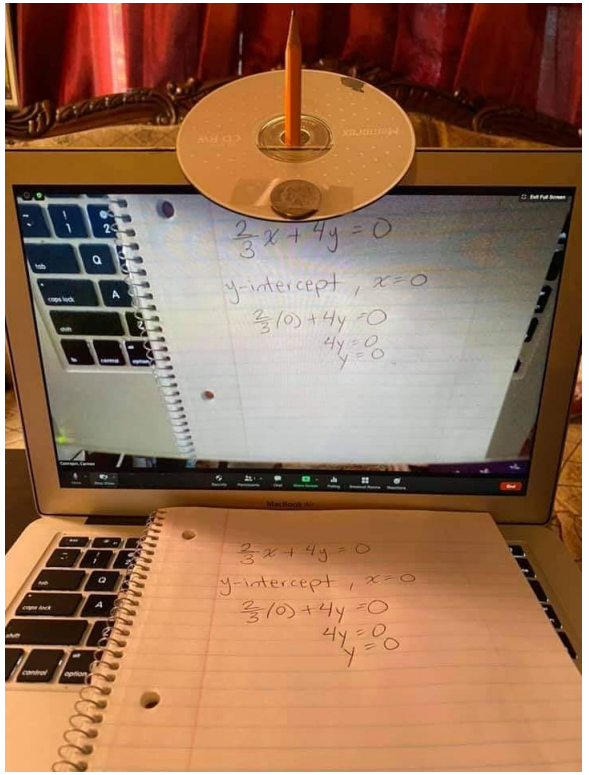
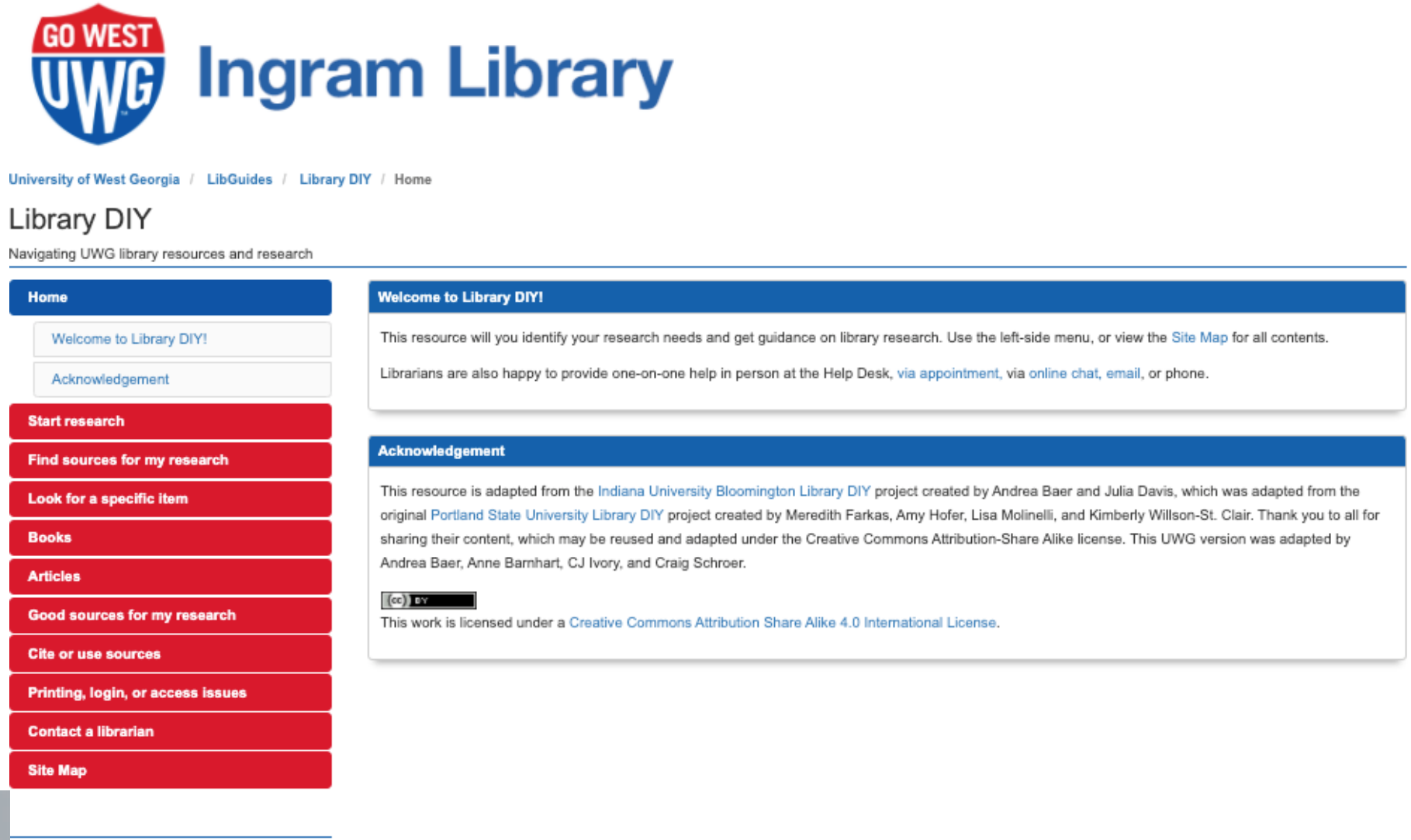




Image by Kim Holder

# Library DIY (libguides.westga.edu/diy)

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# Ingram Library



## Library DIY

Navigating UWG library resources and research


- Home
- Start research
- Find sources for my research
- Look for a specific item
  - Look for a specific item
- Books
- Articles
- Good sources for my research
- Cite or use sources
- Printing, login, or access issues
- Contact a librarian
- Site Map


### Look for a specific item

- Searching for Books and ebooks
- Look for a specific article
- Look for a specific journal
- Look for a textbook
- Materials from instructor on reserve
- Have a citation but don't know what it cites
- Theses and dissertations
- Look for a specific video
- Library does not have item
- Asked to use only print or non-Internet sources
- These do not describe my need

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### Accessing the catalog

There are two ways to access the catalog from the Library homepage:

1. Click on the "Books" tab above the search box on the right of the screen. The default search will search only for items in the UWG Library. To search for items from all USG Libraries, use the drop down menu to select "USG Universal Catalog." Click on the magnifying class to search results.

2. From the gray horizontal menu click "Research Tools" and then "Catalog." The default search will search only for items in the UWG Library. To search for items from all USG Libraries, click on "Advanced Search" (to the right of the search box). At the top of the new search box, change the "Search Scope" from "University of West Georgia" to "University System of Georgia" by using the drop-down menu.

### Starting a catalog search

In the UWG catalog, it usually works best to begin with a simple search. You can then narrow your search from the results page. (Click the **Sign-in for More Options** tab to access an online book, or to request an item that is located at another USG Library.)

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# LibraryDen

A guided and graded experience through Library DIY

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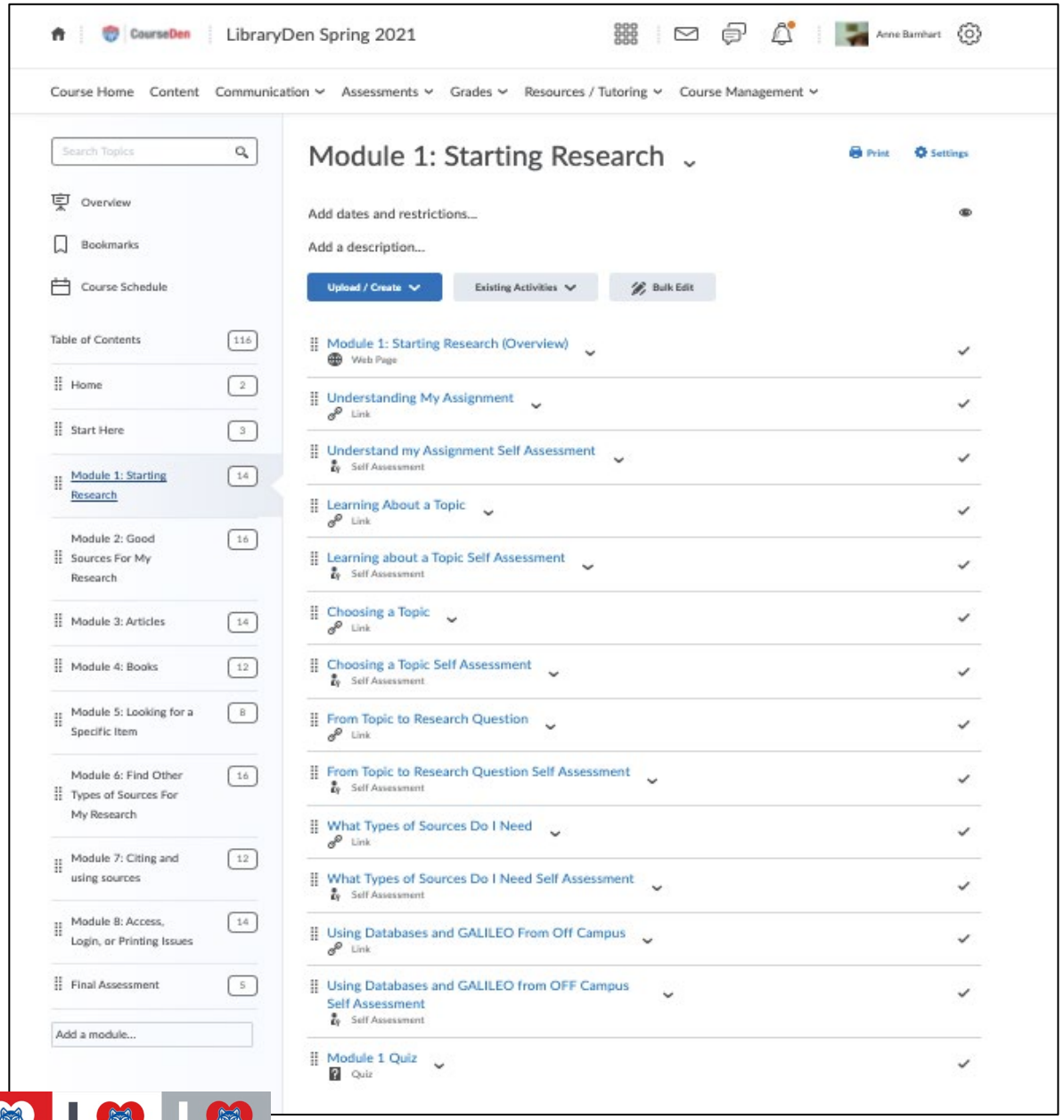
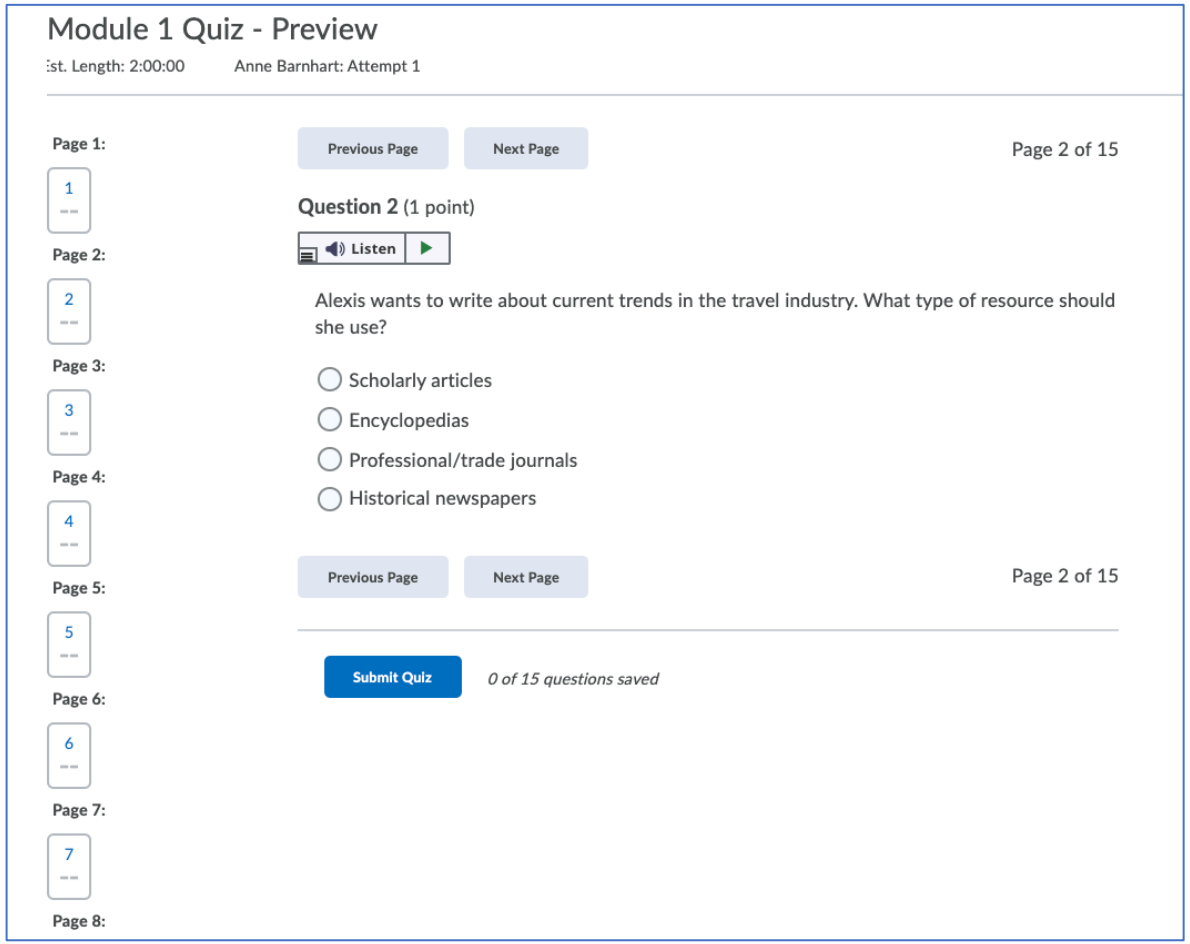
# LibraryDen

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# Student testers

| Name of | What content on the page was cont | What content did you find especial | Which questions were confusing ir | Which questions were too easy? | Which questions were too hard? | Please write a question for this pag | How long did it take you to read the |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Learn about a topic | | The multiple resources listed as potential starters for understanding a topic can clear a lot of confusion students may have. During topic look-ups for me when writing an assignment, at least when I was in lower-level courses, I had no idea where to start or what sources were reliable (because academic sources do not often tell you all the background information you may need). | | | | When researching background information, sources like Wikipedia are fine as starter information to be cross-checked with other sources later (but not as sources for your final assignment). true/false (the wording is kind of bad, so tweaking may be necessary). | It took me 1 minute to read the page and 1 minute to take the quiz. |
| Learn about a topic | I did not find any of the content confusing | Tips to help with presearch | I did not find any of the questions confusing. | I did not find any of the questions too easy. | I did not find any of the questions too hard. All were great questions! Nicely constructed questions and answer choices. | Gaining and overview of your topic through background research is sometimes called _____.<br>A. Subject Guides<br>B. Presearch<br>C. Credo Reference<br>D. Crowd Sourcing<br><br>Correct Answer: B. | 10 Mins |
| Learn about a topic | None of the content was confusing | The tips are really helpful, instead of just defining presearch, tips were provided. | None of the questions were confusing | None of the questions were too easy. | None of the questions were too hard | True or false. Journals related to the area you are studying are not helpful and can throw you off track. False | It took me about 10 minutes |
| Learn about a topic | Everything on this page was helpful and simple to understand. | I thought the most helpful content consisted of the tips offered to understanding your topic better - the databases were a big help, and so was the information regarding the librarians' help. | None of the questions were confusing in my opinion. | I thought they were all pretty easy. | None of the questions were too hard. | Q: What essential tool do you use for journals for help with studying and brainstorming? A: e-Journals list under the library catalog.a | Both reading the page and taking the quiz just took a few minutes. |
| Understand my assignment | In the purpose of the assignment section there is a sentence that is worded a bit strange. "How will you use research and of information sources in the assignment?" I do not understand what the sentence is trying to say, especially with the "and of" word combination. | It is helpful that there is a link to library resources embedded in the page and that there are other helpful links. It makes the page more resourceful. | | Question 1 | Question 2 | What should you do if you do not know what your professor is asking you to write? | 9 minutes |
| | The usage of bullet points helps make it | | | | | | |

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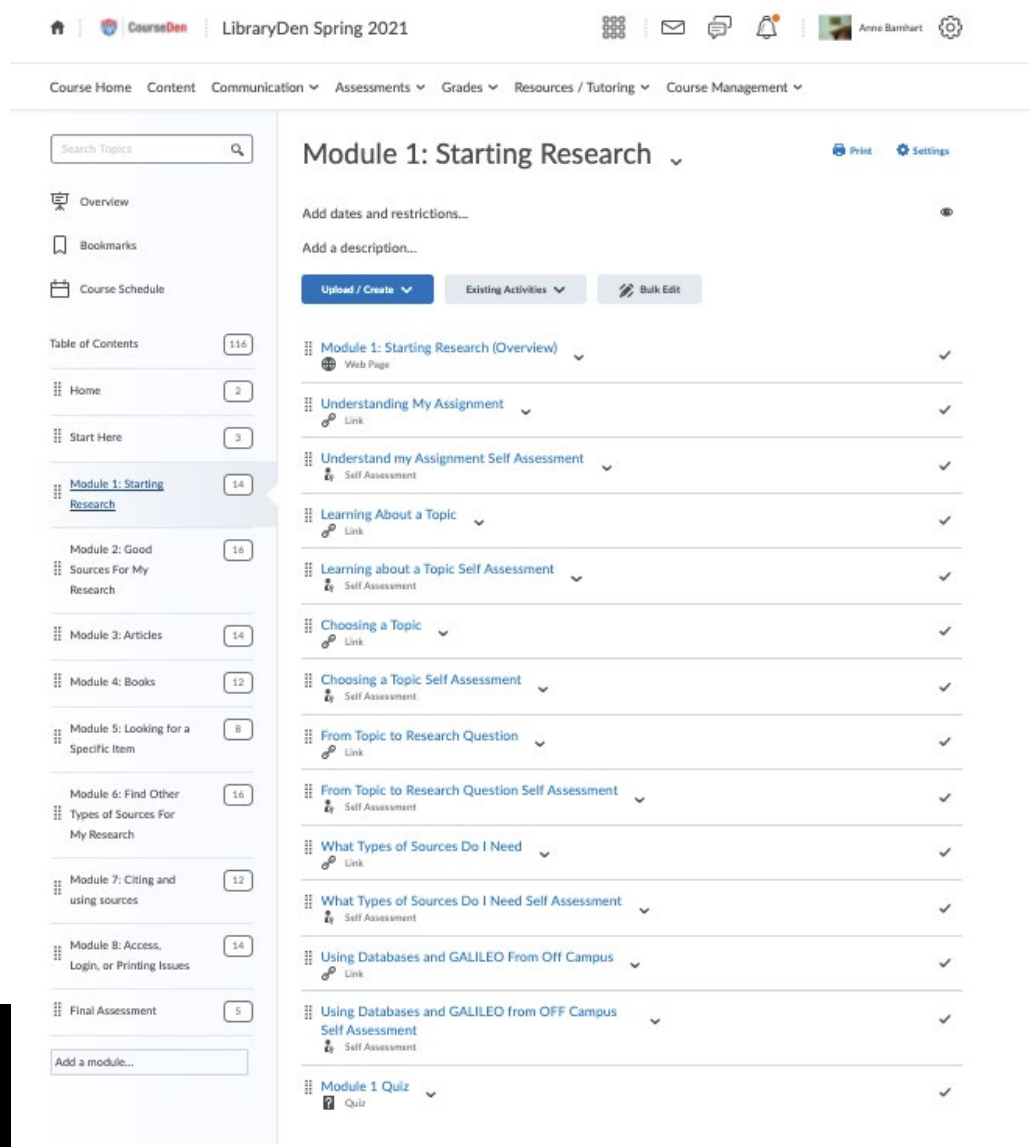
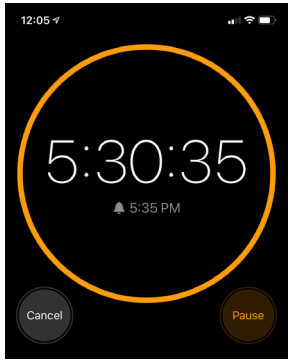
# What did the student testers say about LibraryDen?

- “I found particularly useful the distinction between different types of sources, for example, professional journals vs. peer-reviewed articles”
- “I learned about becoming more precise about my search topics”
- “I learned how to look for specific articles and how to read APA and MLA citations”
- “I believe every program and course could benefit from this.”

# What is LibraryDen?

Online
Asynchronous
Autograded
Scalable
8 modules, 8 required quizzes
45 topics with optional self-assessments
1 pre-test
1 post-test
5-6 hours to complete
Introductory information literacy and library research skills



# LibraryDen Learning Outcomes

- Students will discriminate between different library resources
- Students will identify resources appropriate for different information needs
- Students will explain how to get research help from a librarian
- Students will evaluate search strategies
- Students will recognize elements in citations
- students will describe criteria to evaluate the reliability of information

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# Disciplines that used LibraryDen

**Fall 2020**

- Economics
- Education
- Psychology
- Anthropology
- English
- Sociology
- History
- Political Science
- Art

**Spring 2021**

- Education
- English
- Communication
- Anthropology
- Art

Many introductory courses are only offered fall semester so that is why there is a decrease in the number of subject areas

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# Assessment Data: Pre-test to Post-test

## Fall 2020

Mean increase: 11.99%

Mode increase: 17.67%

Median increase: 13.59%

Range: -15.33% to +38%

## Spring 2021

Mean increase: 26%

Mode increase: 18%

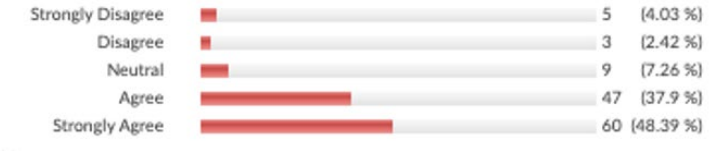
Median increase: 26%

Range: -5% to +58%

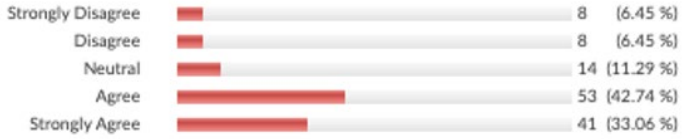
# Student Feedback

## Fall 2020

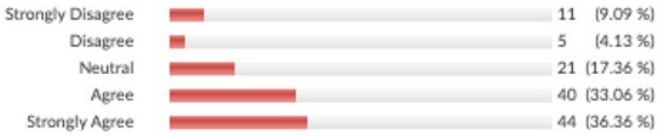
LibraryDen is useful to me as a UWG student.




I would recommend LibraryDen to friends and classmates.




I'm glad my professor included LibraryDen in my course.




## Spring 2021

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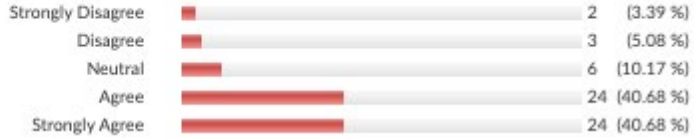


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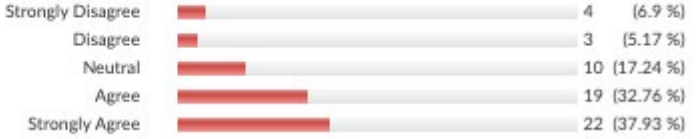


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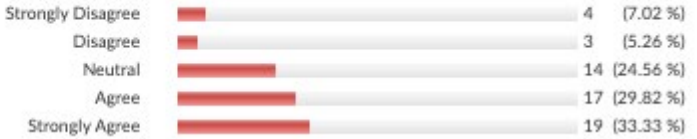


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# Student Comments

"LibraryDen has given me so much information and shown me where to go access resources that I didn't even know existed"

"Great resource!"

"Make it a required course as soon as someone starts classes regardless of their degree"

"maybe make a video instead of reading all this stuff"

"I learned a lot through this course about what is available, what to use, where to find, and more."

"have this required at the start of each graduate program, especially in the social sciences"

# Faculty comments

“It covered the basics of conducting literature reviews well”

“It is well designed, easy to follow”

“Great resource! Thanks so much!! I plan to use it next semester again.”

“Could you make discipline-specific versions?”

# Enhancements Fall 2020 → Spring 2021

- Reordered some content
- Rewrote questions that were often missed
- Two opportunities to take assessments
- Assignment and reflection question pairings for faculty

*Reflection questions for Module 1:*
*You might have been surprised to see that you could use Wikipedia as background reading for a topic even though you shouldn't use it as a research source. Please describe strategies for how you can use Wikipedia safely and appropriately.*

*Reflection question for Module 4:*
*Ingram Library is an "academic library" yet we provide access to materials that aren't "academic." Why is that the case? And what does that mean for you, as a student researcher? What responsibility do you have to evaluate the resources you find?*

# Upcoming enhancements

Continue modifying based on feedback

- Summer 2021: adding more visual elements

Prepare additional assignment pairing suggestions

- Fall 2021: work with Education grad students to create lesson plans

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# Response from the profession

ALAnews

**Ingram Library of the University of West Georgia chosen for the LIRT 2021 Innovation in Instruction Award**

For Immediate Release
Mon, 04/05/2021

**Contact:**
Emilia Marcyk
Chair, 2021 Innovation in Instruction Award
Library Instruction Round Table (LIRT)
marcyk@msu.edu

CHICAGO — The Library Instruction Round Table (LIRT) of the American Library Association is pleased to announce that the 2021 Innovation in Instruction Award will be presented to the Ingram Library of the University of West Georgia. Created to recognize a library that demonstrates innovation in support of information literacy and instruction, this year's award recognizes LibraryDen, an asynchronous information literacy course built in response to changing instructional needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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# Going Global: una versión en español

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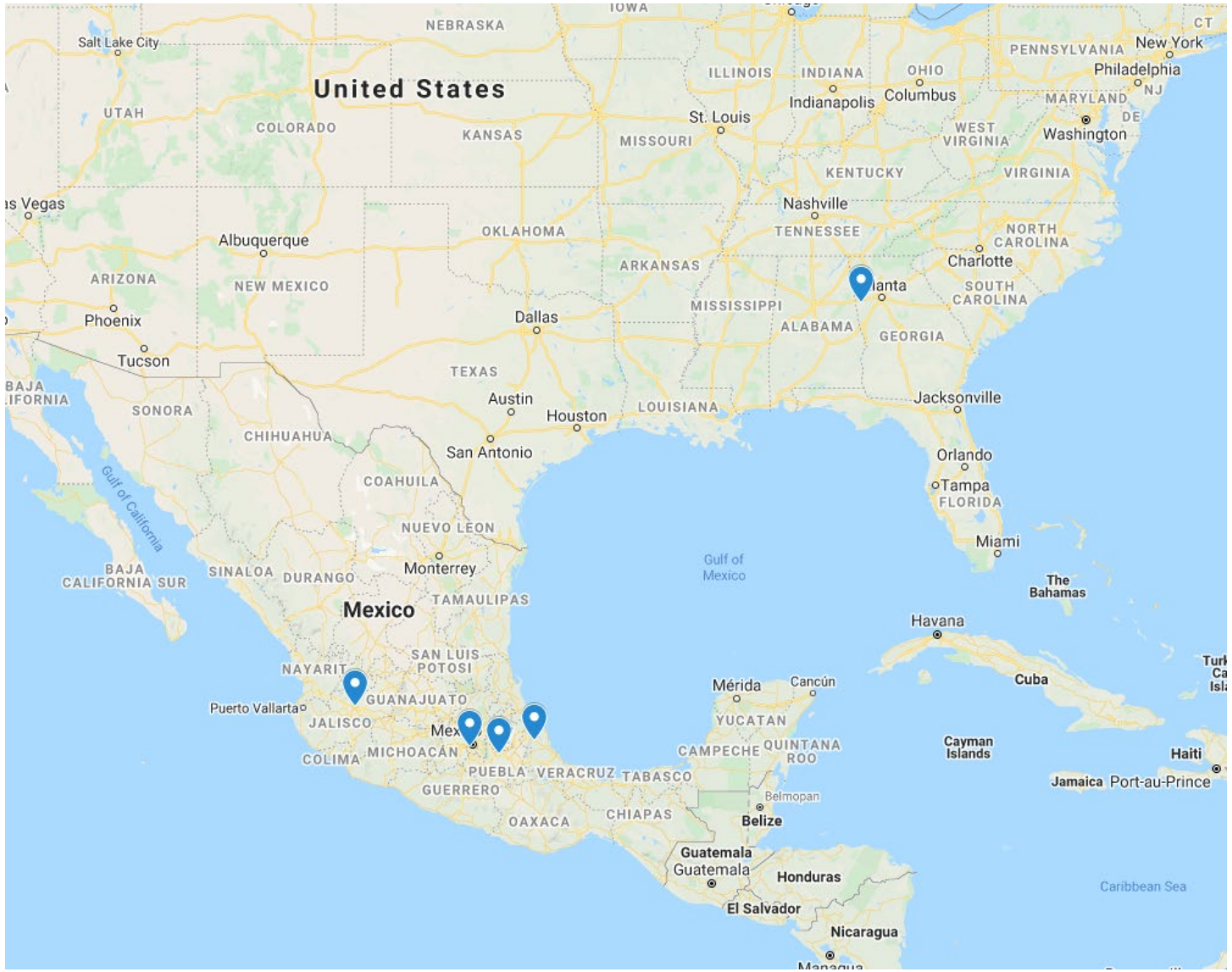
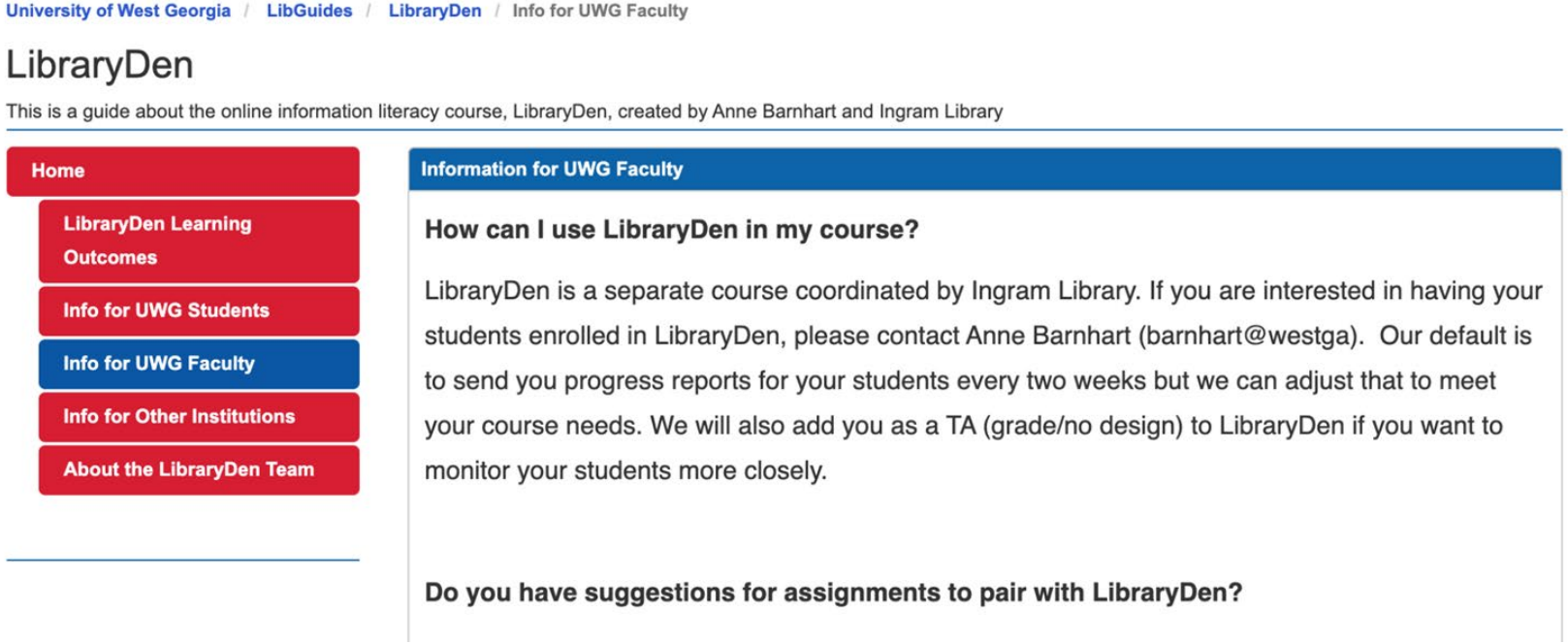
Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla



# Interested in collaborating or knowing more?

Ingram Library

**libguides.westga.edu/libraryden**

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