ENGL 1001: Using Print Books

Fall 2025

Learning goal	Activity	Assessment	Threshold concepts
Describe the usefulness of print books	Two-minute free write: ask students reflect on when and why print books may be useful for their research. Prompt: when may a print book be more helpful than a web resource (web article or social media content) for your research? (Bonus question: what research topics or questions may be better approached or answered using a print book?) After free write, ask students to discuss their reflections in small groups.	Ask small groups to share some of their reflections and discussion with the rest of the class.	Scholarship as conversation: • identify barriers to entering scholarly conversation via various venues • recognize that scholarly conversations take place in various venues
Talking points:	Some subjects, like literature, history, and theory-focused subjects like philosophy or theology, are often better covered by books. Books often include more context to help readers understand how we got here in a scholarly conversation. For more context about a specific book, you can consult a book review for a useful summary.	Many books aren't digitized. Many valuable books exist only in print. Books are a slower, foundational part of a scholarly conversation. They often establish or explore key theories or cultural and historical context. Books are designed for depth. They're especially useful when you need in-depth background, historical context, or long, complex argument to support a thesis.	

Use the library catalog to find a print book relevant to your research topic	Librarian demonstrates searching for a research topic and applying 'held by library' filter to find a relevant print book. (Ask students to volunteer research topics for searching.) Ask students to similarly search for their research topic and apply filter to find a relevant print book.	Books can't be revised as easily as web content. Their stability makes them more reliable for reference and research. Ask pairs or small groups to share and confirm their found print books are available for circulation.	Searching as strategic exploration: • design and refine needs and search strategies as necessary, based on search results; • understand how information systems (i.e., collections of recorded information) are organized in order to access relevant information
Talking points:	Apply filters: "Books" and "Availability—held by library". Select a search result. Show students what a record looks like. Where is the call number? How can you tell if the title is available for check out?	Be sure your book is available (not checked out) before you try to find it in the library stacks. Remember the fourth floor has upper and lower floors.	
Locate a print book in the library stacks	Ask students to record the floor and call number of the print book they found. Lead students to the library stacks to locate their print books. Encourage students to help each other locate their print books. Encourage students to browse other print	Ask students to check out their print books at the self-checkout machine or at the library services desk. If students need help locating their print books or checking out their print books, then they should ask the librarian or library desk students for help.	Searching as strategic exploration: • understand how information systems (call numbers) are organized in order to access relevant information

	books nearby the print books they're searching for to find related titles.		recognize the value of browsing
Talking points:	"Stacks" is a fancy library word for "where all the books live." Each book has a label on its spine listing its call number. Think of this number as the book's street address. This number tells you where the book lives in the library.	 Call numbers are used to organize books by subject. Call numbers are made up of letters and numbers. Books are placed on the shelf in order of their call numbers. Books on similar topics are generally located nearby. 	
	Once you find your book, browse other books nearby on the same shelf or stack. Do you notice other titles that sound interesting or relevant?		