

The Successful College Researcher – Part 1

Participant’s Guide

Introducing the Library

- What is the name of your FYS course?
- What is your major? (If you haven’t picked a major yet, **that is okay**; just leave this space blank.)
- Select “Staff Directory”, located in the “About the Library” pulldown menu on the library’s homepage (hoover.mcdaniel.edu).
- Skim over each librarian’s list of subjects.
- Write down the name of the librarian who could help you with research in your FYS course.
- Write down the name of the librarian who could help you with research in your major. (It’s okay to leave this blank, if you haven’t yet chosen a major.)

Source Types: Scholarly and Popular

- Title of Publication:
- Type of publication (book, journal magazine, newspaper, etc.):
- How would you classify this source? (Select one.)
 - Scholarly
 - Popular
 - Junk
- Briefly explain your decision. (See the table below.)
- Were you able to find all the information you need to classify your source? (publisher, audience, citations, etc.)

	JUNK	POPULAR	SCHOLARLY
author	not credentialed	journalist / staff writer	expert / researcher
publisher	popular / self-published	popular	academic (often)
audience	general public	general public	experts
content	general interest & hot topics	general interest	specific & technical
citations	rare (unreliable)	occasionally	always
peer review	no	no	yes (mostly)

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Using the Catalog

- What is the title of the work you and your partner chose?
- What is the call number?
- On what floor would you find it?
- What type of work is it? (Book, newspaper, DVD, etc.)
- Is the work popular or scholarly? How did you decide?
- Did you text the call number to yourself?



More Info

- See the floor maps on the next page of this handout to help you further pinpoint your source's location.
- See "How to Read a Book" on the reverse side of the floor maps for tips on reading books effectively for research purposes.

The Hoover Hunt Shelfie Contest

At the end of class today, work with your partner to do the following, and help your class compete for a FREE PIZZA PARTY the week before finals.

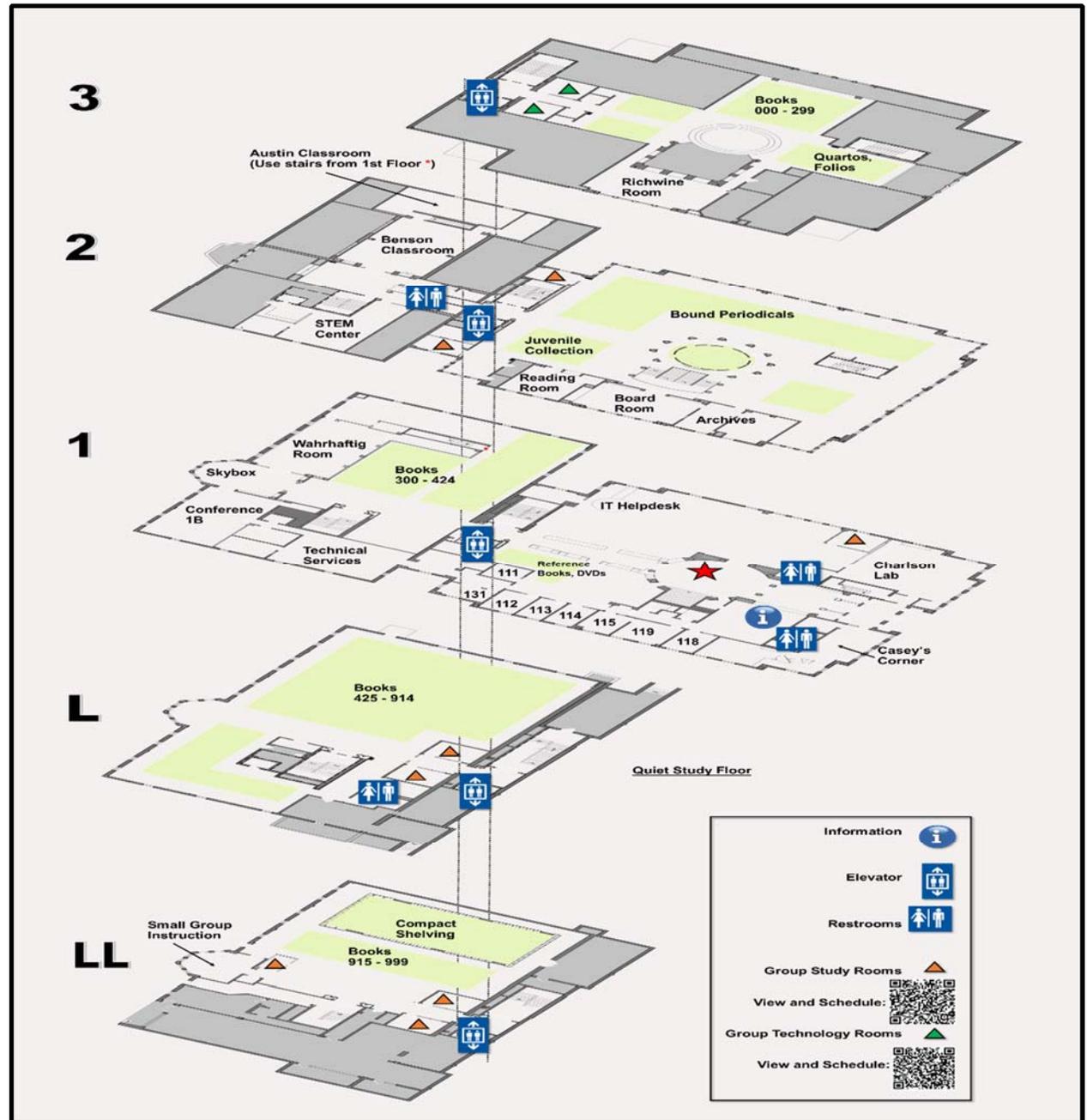
- Use the call number and floor you identified above to find your book (or DVD or newspaper, etc.) in the stacks (in the library).
- Take a "shelfie" of you and your partner with the book.
 - Have fun and be creative. 😊
 - If the book isn't there, you may take a picture of the empty space where it should be.
- Post your "shelfie" to <https://tinyurl.com/HooverHunt2021> or use the QR code to the left.
 - Find the column labeled with your professor's name and post your "shelfie" in that column. (Click the "+" sign under the column, and follow the prompts.)
 - Post only one photo per team.

The class with the highest percentage of "shelfies" will win.

Dewey Decimal Classifications



- 000s – Computers, Reference, and General Information (How do we organize information?)
- 100s – Philosophy and Psychology (Who am I?)
- 200s – Religion (What do we believe?)
- 300s – Social Sciences (Who are the people around me?)
- 400s – Language (How do we communicate with others?)
- 500s – Science (How can I explain the world around me?)
- 600s – Technology (What tools can I use in the world around me?)
- 700s – Arts and Recreation (How can I represent the world around me? How can I enjoy my free time?)
- 800s – Literature (What are the stories we tell?)
- 900s – History and Geography (What was the world like in the past? What is it like now?)



View the floor maps online by choosing "Library Floor Maps" under the "About the Library" pulldown menu on the library's homepage. <https://lib.hoover.mcdaniel.edu/c.php?g=248526&p=8461696>

How to Read a Book

When reading for research, your goal is to **find and understand information** so that you can **develop ideas and arguments**. This means that, most often, you **read an academic book in pieces**, not cover-to-cover. There are three basic steps. If at any point you decide the book isn't helpful, it's okay to cross it off your list and move on to your next resource.

STEP 1: Pre-reading – Get familiar with the text.

- **Survey** the book to determine what it is about and whether it is useful.
 - Look at the title, author, publication details, table of contents, index, introduction, conclusion, and any charts/tables/maps/illustrations.
- **Skim** the chapter titles and section headings to understand how the content is organized and where you might find the information you need.
- **Scan** the text to decide what parts you should read more carefully in Step 2.
 - Quickly read the first and last paragraphs of the chapters that looked relevant to your project, looking for keywords and phrases about your topic.

STEP 2: Reading – Read selectively, actively, and critically.

- **Selective reading** means reading **only** the chapters or sections you identified in Step 1.
- **Active reading** means interacting with the text. Take notes, which might include:
 - rewriting ideas or passages in your own words (paraphrasing),
 - writing down the key points using fewer words (summarizing), and
 - copying exact quotes you want to use; there should only be a few.
- **Critical reading** means thinking about what you are reading as you read. Consider:
 - the author's purpose for writing the book – you can often find this in the introduction or foreword,
 - the tone and form of the writing (e.g., formal, informal, narrative, persuasive),
 - the quality of the evidence (if the author is making an argument), and
 - how the text fits with or challenges your own views and ideas.

STEP 3: Post-reading – Wrap it up.

- **Read over your notes** and double-check your understanding.
- **Consider** how the reading fits in with your other research. Does it offer a different view, or does it support your other reading?
- **Confirm** the citation details; you will need page numbers for exact quotations, as well as ideas you paraphrased or summarized.
- **Check** the book's endnotes and/or bibliography for additional sources.