

Librarian as Course Director:

Lessons Learned the Hard Way

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**The Gustave L. and
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Icahn School
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Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this lightning talk, participants will be able to:

- ▶ List 2 or more challenges inherent in longitudinal course development
- ▶ Summarize potential solutions to these challenges



Background

Based on requests from faculty and our own knowledge of graduate student information needs, librarians at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai developed two courses:

	Credits	Offered since
Lessons in Scientific Publishing	2 credits	Fall 2016
Introduction to Systematic Reviews	1 credit	Fall 2017

How designing one-shot instruction sessions prepares you for course development:

- ▶ You need to find a way to make the content flow together into a cohesive whole (both within each session and across sessions)
- ▶ You need to keep your students from falling asleep
- ▶ You need to prepare (as best you can) for teaching learners of different skills levels within the same classroom
- ▶ You have a finite amount of time to explain complex, nuanced topics and processes



Lessons Learned

- ▶ Course experience should match that of other courses as closely as possible
- ▶ Identify struggling students early
- ▶ Unfortunately many graduate students need to be treated more or less as undergrads
- ▶ Assignment parameters need to be **EXTREMELY** detailed



Spring 2016

Assignment: Search the Literature on Your Chosen Topic

Using the techniques discussed in the Module 1 session, search at least two databases for literature on your topic. You don't need to review all the results, but review enough to be sure that your search strategies were effective. Be sure to save your searches! Next week you will be exporting the results of these searches to a reference management tool.

Spring 2018

Assignment: Search the Literature on Your Chosen Topic

Search at least two databases for literature on your topic. **In each database, use at least two of the techniques that were demonstrated in class, i.e. search filters/limits, results sorting, MeSH terms, etc. (Simple keyword searches which do not employ any of these techniques discussed in class do not constitute an acceptable submission.)**

Be sure to save your searches! Next week you will be exporting the results of these searches to a reference management tool.

Upload your full search strategy to Blackboard in one of the two following ways:

- 1. Take screenshots of your searches. Paste the screenshots into a Word document.**
- 2. Copy and paste the searches into a Word document.**

Feedback

It is such a good class that I feel that it should be encouraged more widely across the Graduate School...I would almost be inclined to make it a required class.

I was able to learn so much about this whole world of publishing and academic scholarship. I feel a little "ahead" in a way, because I have taken this class.

The curriculum was excellent and the resources used in the class were of top notch level. The instructors...helped us a lot throughout the requirements of the manuscript writing.