Research paper assignment in hand,

you behold the gothic structure before you.
75–85% of students describe their initial response to libraries in terms of fear or anxiety.


The foyer of the building is surprisingly welcoming.

There are no books in sight, but you see what looks like an information desk.

Ask for help

Look for books
KU Libraries offer:

4.2 million print volumes
7 campus facilities
400 accessible electronic databases
150 faculty and staff
175 student employees

To your amazement, the person at the circulation desk is friendly and helpful. His name is Shaun.

As it happens, there are books here.

And librarians too!

Enter the stacks

Talk to a librarian
What frustrates students when conducting research?

Beginning a research assignment.


You are in the stacks. Who would have thought there were so many books?

Because you asked for help, you have a bearing on your surroundings. You feel a sense of accomplishment for making it to the heart of the beast.

You see fellow students. Maybe they can help you.
65% of instructors very often emphasize the importance of appropriately citing sources used in a paper or project.


You found a book.

You are intrigued by the information it holds. The books nearby look related to your topic as well.

Check out the book on hand

Keep looking at books
160,000 approximate number of books and other items checked out per year from KU Libraries by faculty, staff, and students.

You exit the library, book in hand. The world is as you left it when you entered.

But you exit the facility a new person. The library is no longer a place of anxiety for you but a resource for your academic success.

Continue
40% of humanities and social science students consult course textbooks or readings to begin the research process.

You keep looking at books.

You have amassed a wealth of information.

You write a draft for your paper and disprove the theory of relativity.

Continue
47 percent of first-year students surveyed report their primary source of help for coursework as being a friend or other student.

You talk to the student.

Your peer suggests that you use a computer for research.

57 percent of first-year students often work in groups with people who differ in terms of background, political orientation, points of view, etc.


You converse.
The library is a good place to talk to fellow students!
Talk about sports
Talk about movies
KU Libraries subscribe to five streaming video databases that cover a wide range of topics and subject areas.

You talk about movies.

The student informs you that there is a whole section of the library dedicated to films.

You find yourself immersed in texts on post-structuralism.

You feel a sense of accomplishment and begin your research paper.

Continue
The University Archives in the Spencer Research Library houses the historic record of the University of Kansas.

You discuss sports.

Rock Chalk!

There is a whole section of the library dedicated to sports, they tell you.

Sports! What a concept for a research paper!

You head for that area of the stacks. Your researching adventure feels like it has just begun.

Continue
As well as access to e-books, trade publications, government documents, images, streaming video, and more.

Returning to the main floor of the library, you note the row of computers your fellow academian was referring to.

You pull up a chair and log in.
88% of students found databases accessed through the library helpful to them.


You use the library website. Immediately the page fills with peer-reviewed articles, dissertations, and other credible sources.

**The internet is a magical place!**

You are thankful that Shaun explained to you how to narrow your research topic. You do so and write down the call number for a book before retrieving it from the stacks.

Check out the book

Make a photocopy
160,000 approximate number of books and other items checked out per year from KU Libraries by faculty, staff, and students.

You checked out a book.

Because you asked for help, it's about a subject you are interested in! It is a great place to begin research.

Continue
Additionally, there are a number of Bookeye scanners which can create a digitized version of research materials for free.

You remember that Shaun informed you of the library's photocopy machine.

You made a photocopy.

The rich smell of the paper incites you to begin writing. You leave the building with a sense of accomplishment, holding the still warm pages close to your chest.

Continue
76% reported that Wikipedia helped them start the research process.

Despite the warnings you may have received, Wikipedia can be a great starting point for your research!

You search Wikipedia for a topic that interests you and find a great deal of information, as well as a list of potential sources.
Instead, the new workers default to quick answers plucked from the Internet.


Undaunted by the blank page in front of you and invigorated by the wisdom of everyone’s favorite wiki...

You begin your paper.
88% of students found databases accessed through the library helpful to them.


You use the library website.

Immediately the page fills with peer-reviewed articles, dissertations, and other credible sources. The internet is a magical place!

Continue
KU Libraries offer:

- 4.2 million print volumes
- 7 campus facilities
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- 150 faculty and staff
- 175 student employees

After much searching, you have found books. Rows and rows of books.

You see another student.

Grab a book

Talk to a peer
What frustrates students when conducting research?

**Trying to locate the perfect source.**


You

**grab a book.**

It is exhilarating.

The book is in Russian, but it is exhilarating.
60% of first-year students find time management to be moderately to very difficult.


You take a deep breath and peer outside. It is still light out.

Eastern Lawrence stretches out before you.

- Sit at creepy desk
- Find a different book
Taking a book with you, you manage to read through it relatively thoroughly.

One paragraph in particular looks especially useful.
160,000

approximate number of books and other items checked out per year from KU Libraries by faculty, staff, and students.

You look around some more. Eventually you come across one that peaks your interest. Also there is a cool picture on the cover.

Continue
65\% of instructors very often emphasize the importance of appropriately citing sources used in a paper or project.


Night falls as you read the passage again and again.

**The stacks will be closing in fifteen minutes,**

a booming yet pleasant voice says, breaking your concentration.

You return the book to its original place.

The next day you wake up, surrounded by papers upon which are scrawled the paragraph you have memorized.

You can't say your trip to the library was a total success, but at that moment you feel a certain kinship with John Nash and revel in the small victory.

Continue
40% of humanities and social science students consult course textbooks or readings to begin the research process.


You put the book back and find a new one.

After some searching, you find some that interest you.

You check them out and exit the library.

You feel a sense of accomplishment for pursuing your adventurous spirit.

Continue
65% of instructors very often emphasize the importance of appropriately citing sources used in a paper or project.


Luckily, you are a fluent Russian speaker.

Your research paper is off to a good start!

Continue
80% of students report not asking librarians for help.


Huzzah!
You find a librarian who helps you figure out what you want your paper to be about.

Go to another library

Sit down at a desk
There are **seven libraries** on the Lawrence campus.

The librarian informs you that there are multiple libraries on campus, each housing different content.

You boldly head out in search of another library.
The Spencer Research Library offers different types of research material than found in many other libraries, including rare documents, objects, and special collections.

You find that Spencer Library is home to many special collections and the University Archives.

It may not be the first library you think of, but it sure does have plenty of rare objects and documents!

Check the archives  Go to the special collections
Included in this archive is KU sports history including the papers of James Naismith, inventor of basketball.

Speaking with the archivist, you find out that a number of historical sports objects are held here.

You navigate through the maze of the archives to find a Big Jay costume from the 1960s and decide to write your paper about the evolution of the mascot.

Continue
Special Collections presently holds about 250,000 volumes printed since the mid-fifteenth century and about 500,000 manuscripts dating from Antiquity to present.

You find collections of ancient and medieval texts. Ye Olde forms of English intrigue you. You begin your paper with a quote from Shakespeare.

The Libraries' collections contain a wide variety of rare books and manuscripts whose purpose is to allow researchers direct access to primary source materials.

Continue
You enter the cavernous main level of Anschutz. You find that the library is full of study spaces with options for all types of students, including computer work stations and group study areas.
Libraries as a space function as research refuges where students feel like they are able to be more productive.


In solitude and surrounded by books, you feel the spark of scholarly inspiration.

You find a quiet corner and spread your materials across the desk. The quiet hum of the lights overhead comfort you as you begin your paper.
Some students prefer to work in libraries with a certain level of ambient noise; these students prefer to use the library for collaborative and socialization purposes.


Looking around the foyer, you see a large number of different groups working together on various projects.

You choose a large table and wait for your friends to arrive. You hope they bring snacks.

Continue
Spaces in KU Libraries:

- Quiet Study
- Group Study
- Reading Rooms
- Food & Drink

Before you leave, the librarian hands you an iPad to check out. How cool!
KU Libraries offers technology for check-out:

- Laptops
- Voice Recorders
- iPads
- Digital Cameras
- Calculators

You turn on the iPad.

Find a map of the stacks  Get on Facebook
What frustrates students when conducting research?

Beginning a research assignment.


The library is bigger than you imagined, but full of exiting potential sources.

You choose a stack and head in a new direction.

Check out the book on hand

Explore another stack
65% of instructors very often emphasize the importance of appropriately citing sources used in a paper or project.


You return the iPad and

**find a book.**

Lucky for you, it's about a subject you are interested in! It is a great place to begin research.

Continue
77% of students surveyed spend one to five hours on research for a paper, often mere days before it is due.


Facebook time.
You should probably go back to researching...

Go back to studying

Continue browsing Facebook
60% of first-year students find time management to be moderately to very difficult.


You open a new tab in the iPad's browser. It automatically takes you to the library's search engine.

You type: Facebook.

Suddenly hundreds of articles about Facebook appear before you!

Continue
Students who engaged in multitasking while studying, particularly using Facebook, averaged lower grades than those who minimized technological distractions.


Look at the time!

The research paper is already due.

You failed the paper.

Continue
48% of students are unsure how to begin the research process.


You stay home.

Your bed is nice and warm.

Stay home some more

Go to the library
47% of first-year students surveyed report their primary source of help for coursework as being a friend or other student.


You stay home.

You think about your friends. Your family.

Stay home some more  Go to the library
63% report feeling uncomfortable searching for information.


You stay home.

You think about the health risks of staying indoors all day.

Stay home some more

Go to the library
There are **seven libraries** on the Lawrence campus.

You stay home. You wonder why your only other option is going to the library.

You stay home some more

Go to the library
67% of students do not want to learn how to do research on their own.


You stay home.

You think about your Grandmother. She would want me to work on my research paper, you think to yourself.

Stay home some more

Go to the library
75-85% of students describe their initial response to libraries in terms of fear or anxiety.


You stay home.
60% of first-year students find time management to be moderately to very difficult.


Look at the time! The research paper is already due. You failed the paper.

Continue
You are a pragmatist.
The most direct route is the route for you.

Research shows that first-year undergraduate students who use the library have higher GPAs than non-library users and are more likely to return for their sophomore year. Want to succeed? Let KU Libraries be your guide. Visit our website for more information about helpful research practices and resources.

This game is brought to you by: KU Libraries The University of Kansas

Visit KU Libraries  Start Over
You are a researcher.

You collect information like a spider collects its prey.

Research shows that first-year undergraduate students who use the library have higher GPAs than non-library users and are more likely to return for their sophomore year. Want to succeed? Let KU Libraries be your guide. Visit our website for more information about helpful research practices and resources.

This game is brought to you by: KU Libraries The University of Kansas

Visit KU Libraries

Start Over
You are a cinephile.

You form bonds with others through your interest and are eager to tell anyone who will listen that André Bazin owned a cat.

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This game is brought to you by:

KU LIBRARIES
The University of Kansas
You are a

sports enthusiast.

You take comfort in the fact that you can talk basketball in the most unlikely of places, even the library!

Research shows that first-year undergraduate students who use the library have higher GPAs than non-library users and are more likely to return for their sophomore year. Want to succeed? Let KU Libraries be your guide. Visit our website for more information about helpful research practices and resources.

This game is brought to you by:

KU LIBRARIES
The University of Kansas

Visit KU Libraries

Start Over
You are an

**ideal researcher.**

You seek all the help you can get, which is great!

Research shows that first-year undergraduate students who use the library have higher GPAs than non-library users and are more likely to return for their sophomore year. Want to succeed? Let KU Libraries be your guide. Visit our website for more information about helpful research practices and resources.

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Research shows that first-year undergraduate students who use the library have higher GPAs than non-library users and are more likely to return for their sophomore year. Want to succeed? Let KU Libraries be your guide. Visit our website for more information about helpful research practices and resources.

This game is brought to you by:

KU LIBRARIES
The University of Kansas
You are a shallow wader.

With the internet at your fingertips, you feel powerful—but the deep web is a little too deep for you. You’re satisfied with just skimming the surface for your information needs.

Research shows that first-year undergraduate students who use the library have higher GPAs than non-library users and are more likely to return for their sophomore year. Want to succeed? Let KU Libraries be your guide. Visit our website for more information about helpful research practices and resources.

This game is brought to you by: KU Libraries The University of Kansas

Visit KU Libraries Start Over
You are an **explorer**.

Research for you is a great adventure, and the stacks are your wilderness.

Research shows that first-year undergraduate students who use the library have higher GPAs than non-library users and are more likely to return for their sophomore year. Want to succeed? Let KU Libraries be your guide. Visit our website for more information about helpful research practices and resources.

This game is brought to you by:

KU Libraries
The University of Kansas
You are a visionary.

No one else may understand the method to your madness, but what's important is that you don't need one.

Research shows that first-year undergraduate students who use the library have higher GPAs than non-library users and are more likely to return for their sophomore year. Want to succeed? Let KU Libraries be your guide. Visit our website for more information about helpful research practices and resources.
You are a free spirit.

You don’t rely on others to find the information you need. You venture out on your own.

Research shows that first-year undergraduate students who use the library have higher GPAs than non-library users and are more likely to return for their sophomore year. Want to succeed? Let KU Libraries be your guide. Visit our website for more information about helpful research practices and resources.

This game is brought to you by KU Libraries.

Visit KU Libraries

Start Over
You are a **linguist**.

You have a passion for language and the spoken word. Thanks to your research assignment, you are now fluent in the language of the library.

Research shows that first-year undergraduate students who use the library have higher GPAs than non-library users and are more likely to return for their sophomore year. Want to succeed? Let KU Libraries be your guide. Visit our website for more information about helpful research practices and resources.

This game is brought to you by: KU LIBRARIES The University of Kansas
You are a socialite.

You love Facebook so much that time is but an instant as you like posts and accept friend requests.

Research shows that first-year undergraduate students who use the library have higher GPAs than non-library users and are more likely to return for their sophomore year. Want to succeed? Let KU Libraries be your guide. Visit our website for more information about helpful research practices and resources.

This game is brought to you by:

Visit KU Libraries
KU Libraries
The University of Kansas
You are a **hipster**.

You like technology, but you also like people.

Research shows that first-year undergraduate students who use the library have higher GPAs than non-library users and are more likely to return for their sophomore year. Want to succeed? Let KU Libraries be your guide. Visit our website for more information about helpful research practices and resources.

This game is brought to you by: **KU Libraries**

Visit KU Libraries

Start Over
You are a homebody.

You find comfort in your own comfort. Lucky for you, KU Libraries provide electronic access to many resources from anywhere in the world—even your bedroom!

Research shows that first-year undergraduate students who use the library have higher GPAs than non-library users and are more likely to return for their sophomore year. Want to succeed? Let KU Libraries be your guide. Visit our website for more information about helpful research practices and resources.

This game is brought to you by:

KU Libraries
The University of Kansas