Library Services

Generic Training Sessions

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Hello. Welcome everybody to this Facebook Live session, which is on our generic training programme. My name is Ute and I'm one of the Learning and Teaching Librarians. And I just want to give you a brief overview of what our generic training sessions are about and why they are really useful for you to attend.

So they are fantastic, especially if you haven't done much in terms of searching or other information skills. So what they are - they are just six half hour sessions, which we are running throughout the academic year and you can choose whenever you have time when they are scheduled to join us and they are live and therefore you can interact with the presenter and you can also meet other students online and interact with them. The sessions will also be recorded so if you miss a session - if you can't make it to the live session you can actually listen to it afterwards or if you just want to have a recap feel free to access them and just consolidate what you have already learned.

Well, what are our Facebook - sorry, what are our generic training sessions? There is first of all the 'Introduction to Library Services' one and this is really useful if you are new to the OU. So if you don't know where to start, you haven't been to our website or you just don't find your way, start with that one and we will help you and show you how to navigate, we show you where the resources are, and where the different links are for more help and support as well.

If you have already looked at the library website but you are going into searching our resources what is really useful is if you attend our 'Using Library Search for your Assignments' session. This will help you to find the most relevant resources for your topic so, whether it's a specific resource or whether it's just anything subject-related, for example for your assignment, there is a huge breadth of information out there. And we will help you filter the results as well. So you will learn a bit about searching, too. It's our main search tool and you will find it on the main library site. It's the big search box. It's good to get started with this because it's relatively easy and you get so much.

If you want to go down a little bit further and are already fairly advanced in searching using Library Search or using search engines, you might want to go to the databases directly. So there is a session for this and it's called 'Smarter searching with Library Databases'. And we're showing you there how to use a search strategy, how to combine terms and how to actually save your results and export them as well. And that will be useful for specific topics if they are very subject-focused and yes, you have done some previous searching already on Library Search.

Then it's also useful to think about how to actually reference because anything you - you use in your assignments, any resources will have to be referenced. So we have a session on this, which is called

'The Why and How of Referencing'. So if you attend the session, you will have an explanation about why we're doing referencing and also how to construct a reference.

And then you also want to actually think about how can I choose the most relevant and the best quality information for my assignment. That's also part of it. How am I being critical about what I'm using? Well, we've got a session, which is called 'Assessing the Reliability of Information' and we give you some frameworks, which will help you to decide whether some resources are high-quality enough to use them in your essay. And also to think about whether these resources are relevant to your topic. So that's a very useful session as well once you have actually done a search.

And finally, our last and brand new session is 'Exploring ebooks' and what we're going to show you there are the different tools you can use to make best use of our ebooks. We highlight three of our most frequently used and widespread ebook platforms and just generally show you how to find your way round with ebooks as well.

So these sessions are really for everyone. Any of you who feel you can benefit - and I think they are of benefit to absolutely everyone even if you have been studying here for a while. You can really up your skills and it will save you a lot of time once you know how to do things with information and how to deal with it most effectively.

As I said, the sessions will be throughout the year and they are advertised on our training and events page on the library website. They are usually run in the evenings but some of them will be run at lunchtime so you will find the times there on this page. And if you want to join a session, you just need to click on the hyperlink for the session and then follow the instruction until you join an online room. And then you're in. It is the same platform that you're using for your tutorials so once you are in a room and have used that, you have already practised how to actually get on- online in your tutorial groups.

This is pretty much my summary of our sessions. So I have tried to showcase them a little bit to you. I also want to point out to you that there are other Facebook Live sessions. The next one is on Thursday and it's on SCONUL. And that is about accessing and using other university libraries. And the sessions are advertised on our OU Facebook and Twitter pages.

Now have you got any questions with regards to our generic sessions programme, please?

How often do the sessions run?

Yeah, they are often - they are run throughout the year. At the moment, we are running several of them on a weekly basis so the librarians are taking turns in delivering them. So you will find some every week advertised.

Any others? Any other questions?

Okay. If there are no other questions, that was it from me for today. I hope you found that useful and we hope very much that you will join us for some of the sessions and you will get a lot out of them. The feedback so far has been very good. Thank you very much for watching and I shall see you soon. Bye.