12 things college students must know to become successful students and IWU graduates!

1. **It's essential for college students to go beyond Google for research.** At the college level, professors expect students to use academic sources, most of which are **NOT** freely available on the Internet. This means learning how to effectively use the extensive resources offered at The Ames Library.

2. **The Ames Library subscribes to over 70 databases and has access to 57,000 journal titles, allowing students to find the academic sources required to do the type of research expected by teaching faculty.** IWU students need to know how to effectively access and utilize these databases. This requires a specific set of search skills, including an understanding of subject headings, keywords and Boolean search terms.

3. **College students must know how to evaluate resources.** Information is now available online and in print through multiple avenues: newspapers, magazines, blogs, web pages, journal articles, books, government documents, etc. Knowing how to evaluate these different sources is a critical skill to develop in order to incorporate and cite the best, most relevant and acceptable sources into course assignments.

4. **Students need to know how to read a citation and how to cite their own work, using the required citation style of their discipline.** This skill allows a student to find needed resources, as well as to appropriately acknowledge the work of others.

5. **Students simply must know enough about plagiarism to avoid committing it.** This includes understanding nuances of summarizing, paraphrasing, quoting, etc. and how to cite accordingly. Illinois Wesleyan University has stiff penalties for all forms of academic dishonesty. See the IWU student handbook for the official University policy.

6. **Students need to be comfortable using online library catalogs to find books, DVDs and music.** High school library catalogs are often very different from university catalogs.

7. **Most college libraries, including The Ames Library, use the Library of Congress Classification system...most high schools use the Dewey Decimal Classification system.** Either way, students need to know what a call number is and how to locate sources in the library stacks. While high school libraries may have thousands of books, we have over 400,000 items in our collection, as well as archives and special collections.

8. **We provide extensive interlibrary loan services (ILL).** That means if the book, DVD, article, etc. that is needed by a student is not available in the library, we will borrow it from another university for our students to use – at no charge!

Adapted from Sharlee Jeser-Skaggs, What High School Students Should Know
http://www.richlandcollege.edu/library/who/highschool.php

9. **There's a lot more in our library than books.** We also have DVDs, CDs and musical scores in our collection. Students can check out laptops, digital cameras and video equipment. Group study rooms, computer workstations, comfortable seating and wireless Internet – along with a new café – all make the library a great place to study and conduct research.

10. **Campus computers aren't filtered.** High schools filter access to the Internet, but IWU does not. **With freedom comes responsibility.** Students have access to the entire Internet while on campus and are held responsible for how they use it – including what they download for personal use. For more details on the IWU Internet usage policy, see http://www.iwu.edu/IT/about/itusage.shtml.

11. **If a student is eligible for work-study, The Ames Library is a great place to work!** Student assistants get to know the available library resources and work with people who are focused on student success.

12. **Students should start researching early!** Waiting to start an assignment the night before may have worked in high school, but expectations are higher at the college level. Investing time in choosing and refining a topic and finding the best academic resources will make completing an assignment, and earning a high mark, much easier.

How do students learn how to effectively access, evaluate, and use academic sources in order to succeed at the college level and beyond?

By working with The Ames Library Faculty!

We don't expect entering first year students to know how to use everything in the library or to have all the information literacy skills they will need in order to succeed at IWU – **but we do hope they will ask for help!**

Librarians are here to help students learn how to navigate the library and use the necessary tools for scholarship, find and evaluate the best academic resources, and use information ethically.

Personal research assistance is available to all students. Librarians are available during office hours or by appointment, and by phone, email or IM.

Want to learn more about the library and its resources? Go to www.iwu.edu/library

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