Jim and Mary Lois Hulsman Undergraduate Library Research Award

Guidelines for Research Statement

A *critical* component of your award application is a 500-750 word research statement describing your research strategies and use of library resources and services. The statement is worth 20 points out of a total 55. Be sure to review the rubric, which outlines judging criteria, posted on the award website at [library.unm.edu/awards](http://library.unm.edu/awards).

Explain in detail how the University Libraries’ collections and resources contributed to your research. Books, articles, archival technical reports, standards, patents, diaries, images, maps, data, librarians, Ask-a-Librarian, library workshops held in class, and library spaces are all examples of library resources.

If you are submitting a group project, explain how the different group members contributed to the process.

**You should address the following points in your statement:**

1. **Research Topic Development:** How did you decide on and then refine your research topic?
   - Did you modify your original idea as a result of what you discovered during your research?
   - Did the library help you further develop your ideas? If so, how?

2. **Research Strategies:** What specific strategies did you develop for finding and using relevant information? We want to know the details of how you did your research.
   - Were any of these strategies specific to the discipline of your research project?
   - What discoveries did you make by chance and which through planned search strategies?
   - What search terms did you use? How did they change as you searched?
   - Did you have a dead end during the research process? How did you adjust your search?
   - What specific library services, spaces, people, or equipment contributed to your research process?

3. **Research Resources:** What did you discover about tools and techniques for research? Reflect on how these resources helped or hindered you. Why did you use them? What did you learn about them?
   - What are the primary research tools in your topic’s area and what did you use (e.g., databases, special collections, Research Guides, websites, etc.)?
   - Are there particular resources that you felt were invaluable to your research (e.g., librarians, services, etc.)?
   - What did you learn about finding and evaluating information on your topic or in your discipline?
   - Did you have trouble finding some types of information? How did you solve this challenge?

**Guidelines for Bibliography**

Review the [rubric](http://library.unm.edu/awards) for additional information when preparing your bibliography:

- Format your bibliography using a style guide appropriate to your project’s discipline.
- Cite all sources you used, even if you did not directly quote from them.
- For long bibliographies, you can subdivide your sources into categories or list them alphabetically.

[library.unm.edu/awards](http://library.unm.edu/awards)  |  [ugresearchaward@unm.edu](mailto:ugresearchaward@unm.edu)