

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 tools and resources. The statement is worth 20 points out of a total 55. Be sure to review the rubric, which outlines the judging criteria, posted at the award website (library.unm.edu/awards).

Explain in detail how the University Libraries' collections and resources contributed to your research. Books, articles, archives, technical reports, standards, patents, diaries, images, maps, data, librarians, library services, 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?
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 your discipline or 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?
 - 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? Don't just list the things you tried – we want you to 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? (databases, special collections, Research Guides, websites, etc.)?
 - Are there particular resources that you felt were invaluable to your research? (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 kinds of information? How did you solve this challenge?

Guidelines for Bibliography

Review the rubric 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.