

**Name School/Advisor Program Year Term F/Sp/Sm**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Katherine Blanc | Dr. David Ward | DSL | 2024 | Sm24 |

**LOC-ALT RESEARCH INFO LITERACY/TOPIC FOCUS SELF-ASSESSMENT**

©2024 Omega Graduate School, David Ward, DPhil, ThM

The LOC-ALT Research Project is provided as an alternative for individually approved students who are unable to participate in-person to the Library of Congress trip to Washington, DC. Because of the time/commitment involved in a major research project, it is important to begin the journey by assessing your readiness to get the help you need to be successful. Be honest about your progress and areas where you need to seek help. In addition to the 1 to 5 general stages of progress to mark below, compose additional descriptions to the strategic questions to contextualize your research. Complete it and return it to give information experts as you begin a help seeking encounter to orient them to provide the right help quickly. [*It is like a researcher’s version of a healthcare provider’s case history to start an appointment!*]

**Information Literacy Research Skills**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Feeling challenged: little knowledge or experience with finding research beyond Google | Basic familiarity with online library catalogue searches and online databases | Some experience with Key Word Searching (Distinguish popular & scholarly sources) | Experienced with Key Word Searching(Can translate interests into & relevant topics) | Experienced  Researcher (have done academic research successfully before) |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  | **X** |

**What research skills do you need guidance about in order to move forward?**

My academic path at OGS has been somewhat out of sequence. With the exception of this Library of Congress workshop, I’ve already completed all of my DSL degree requirements (including my final research project). Therefore, my research skill needs in this workshop will center on familiarizing myself with the L.O.C.’s electronic/digital resources––as much as can be accomplished solely online.

 For my DSL Final Research Project it was necessary to comply with secular constraints, due to the Healthcare District’s role as a public agency. For this workshop, however, I am completely free of secular limitations. Thus I plan to develop a Literature Review that explores faith-learning integration in greater depth than I did in my prior DSL coursework. This Review will be a standalone project.

**What information sources (subjects) or research systems (physical collections, electronic databases, etc.) or topic experts (in person or virtual) do you need to locate and productively access to move forward? Provide succinct statements for each below.**

**Information sources (subjects):** Faith-learning integration; Christian schools

**Research systems (physical collections, electronic databases, etc.):**

Library of Congress – Getting Started Guide (online):

<https://www.loc.gov/rr/gettingstarted.html>

Library of Congress Catalog Search (Keyword Search): <https://catalog.loc.gov/vwebv/searchKeyword?editSearchId=E>

Library of Congress Article Finder (Books; Articles; Journals):

<https://www.loc.gov/pubrr/findit-articlefinder.html>

**Topic experts (~~in person~~ or virtual):**

Library of Congress – Ask a Librarian:

<https://ask.loc.gov/#s-la-box-83050-container-tab1>

**Degree of Research Focus**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Need help identifying a specific research topic | Have research issue & study target population & goal for doing research | Have Research Problem & need to narrow topic & Research Purpose | Have written Research Prospectus & ID’d study participants | Already have specific research topic and want guidance |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  | I have already completed my Final Action Research Project (SR 920) |

**My Research Problem and/or Question is:** What is it that makes a Christian school education distinctive?

**My research Purpose and/or Hypothesis is:** The purpose of this Literature Review will be to examine the literature as it relates to the definition of the Christian school, specifically, the meaning of the expression “the integration of faith and learning.”

My hypothesis is that what makes the Christian school unique is a quality or feature that is absent or missing from other schools.

**My research population is:** As stated above, I have already completed SR 920, including my final DSL action research project. Therefore, I will not be gathering resources or materials for an actual project; I am instead working on skill building to create a standalone Literature Review that will explore faith-learning integration.

**Topics I need to find research sources on for my Literature Review include:**

• Faith-learning integration

• Christian school literature

• Faith-based schooling

• History of Christian education

• Topical analyses of Christian education

**Keywords related to my research include:**

• Faith-learning integration

• Christian education

• Christian schools

**Seminal authors in my research area include:** Since my LOC research is limited to online resources AND this project is solely for experience (not intended for publication), I will not constrain myself to sources 5 years and newer.

**Theoretical Frameworks or Models used to understand my research area include:**

Structural-Functionalism (the bringing together of parts into the whole). A practical example in a Christian school is the need for faith to permeate the entire curriculum, rather than isolated segments.

**I need to find Instruments that address the following issues or constructs:**

While I’ve already completed SR 920, and therefore do not require instruments for my LOC project, I plan to explore the integration of External Meaning (ideas from outside) with Internal Meaning (the internal workings of education, including courses and policies).