

Graduate Student Success

Aligning library instruction for PhD success

Jill Lagerstrom
New Jersey Institute of Technology
January 9, 2026



How can we align learning with objectives at the right time in the right place?

Problem 1	Library workshops were scheduled at different times of the semester just to see when students would show up.	1	Solution = Follow students review schedule
		2	Solution = Advertise via Graduate Studies Office Newsletter and GSA email
Problem 2	Students had no idea what citation style they should use in their thesis.	1	Solution = Faculty survey to determine the choices for each discipline. Consistency key
		2	Solution = Provide LaTeX examples and Word examples for each style
Problem 3	Students come for help a towards the end of the process with problems that could have been nipped in the bud. Students receive uneven mentorship from advisors.	1	Solution = address those problems at the beginning
		2	Solution = workshops focus on getting off on the right foot.

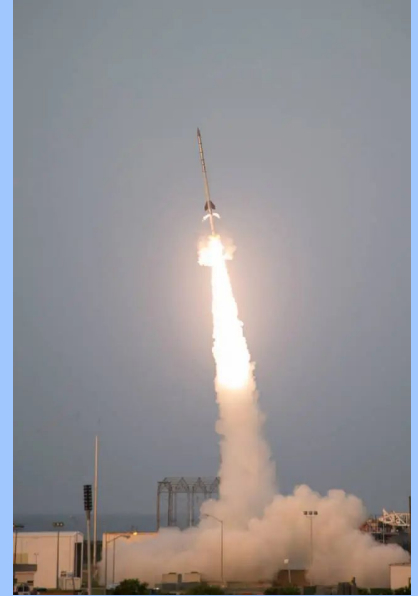
About NJIT

1. 20+ PhD programs
2. 520+ PhD students enrolled; ~60% international
3. R1 Status; \$178M in research expenditures in 2024; 140+ research institutes
4. WSJ ranks #2 nationally for public universities
5. Unique standalone public polytechnic
6. University-wide 65% of students are people of color



Welcome to NJIT Library

Top Ten Countdown for Success!



Our Mission Today

Question 10

Where do I start?

Question 9

How do I cite my resources?

Question 8

I have an issue with LaTeX or Overleaf. How can I get some help?

Question 7

I really just know about searching Google Scholar. How can I learn about other resources that will help me more?

Questions

Answer 10

The NJIT Library Website

Answer 9

Use a citation manager like Zotero
Ask a librarian for help

Answer 8

Jill Lagerstrom, Alex Pacheco.
Overleaf help page is great.

Answer 7

Check out the NJIT Library Research Guides. Find your disciplinary database. Learn Scopus and/or Web of Science.

Answers

Question 6

How do I know if NJIT Library provides access to a journal?

Question 5

Can I use Rutgers Library?

Question 4

Can I use online resources when I'm not on the NJIT Campus?

Question 3

How can I get help with my literature review?

Questions

Answer 6

Use the journal finder.

Answer 5

Yes! Dana Library is just around the corner. Go there with an ID and ask to get a guest account. Can only use e-resources in person. One hour a day.

Answer 4

Yes! Make sure you use NJIT Library website links, sign in to Chrome with your NJIT ID. You can use VPN as well.

Answer 3

Come to the workshop on March 11.
Make an appointment with your subject liaison.

Answers

Question 2

What if I need something and it is not in NJIT Library's collection?

Question 1

How can I get help from a librarian?

Questions

Answer 2

Use interlibrary loan – we can get it for you from another library. Really.

Answer 1

So many ways!
Make an appointment
Chat
Email
Phone
Walk-in

Answers

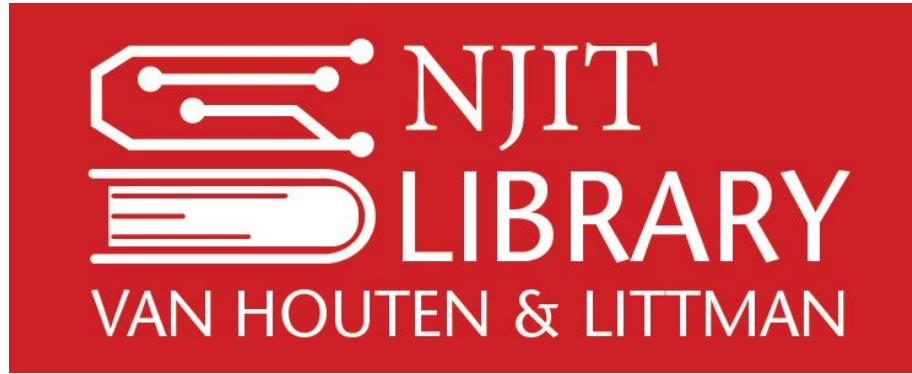
EndNote Zotero Overleaf & Librarians

PhD Student Workshop



Today's Mission

- Introductions
- Choose a citation manager – stay organized and save time formatting and generating references
- Overleaf – for LaTeX users – access NJIT subscription



Literature Reviews
Searching 3+ Ways
Staying Organized

What do you want to learn about literature review searching today? Or library stuff?

Nobody has responded yet.

Hang tight! Responses are coming in.



Our Mission Today

1. **Define purpose of a literature review and find examples**
2. **Practice searching three ways and even more**
3. **Name some tools and strategies to stay organized**



Bonus Mission

Looking at Journals

Open Access

Predatory journals



Next challenges

1. **Work on pdf accessibility of the PhD template**
2. **Create more informal/social opportunities for grad students and librarians**
3. **Meet with labs**

