Trinity River Library liaisons are the designated contact persons between the campus library and specific academic departments. These information professionals are knowledgeable about the TCC library collections and the unique information needs of their assigned subject areas. Collectively, the liaisons facilitate communication between the library and faculty while providing research consultation, library instruction, and collection development services.

What does your library liaison do for you?

Each semester, library liaisons contact new and returning faculty members (including adjuncts) to introduce them to library resources and services. This communication continues throughout the academic year as liaisons send updates on new library materials, services, and events that may be relevant to the department or subject area.

To support student and faculty research endeavors, Trinity River liaison librarians offer one-on-one reference appointments. These sessions typically last about 30 minutes and focus on identifying the most appropriate research tools, constructing effective search phrases, and locating both print and electronic sources. Not only are librarians available to help faculty members locate valuable, high-quality resources for their students, but they can also be called upon to collaborate on the development of assignments that integrate library research skills into the curriculum.

To strengthen students’ research skills, library liaisons design and teach course-specific library instruction classes at the faculty member’s request. Sessions can be customized to the instructor’s assignments and can last anywhere from 15 minutes to an entire
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class period. If desired, the librarian can deliver the full three-hour Information Literacy Certificate course during one or more class sessions.

Librarians can also use faculty input to create online research guides (LibGuides) to assist students in their search for authoritative and relevant resources outside of class time. LibGuides provide one-stop shopping at the point of need and may include book lists, suggested databases, keyword and subject search recommendations, apps, websites and more.

To enhance the library collection, library liaisons also participate in a variety of collection development activities. Using their knowledge of the subject area, librarians frequently evaluate and select new materials. Additionally, they solicit recommendations for purchase from faculty members to make sure that the collection meets the needs and expectations of each department.

What can you do for your library liaison?

As a Trinity River faculty member, there are several things that you can do to support the relationship between library liaisons and the academic departments.

First, share information about course assignments that involve library research and consider working with the librarian when it comes time to redesign the project or assignment. This will allow the librarian time to prepare effective instruction, pull materials and tweak LibGuides to make them more useful and accessible tools for your students.

Additionally, allow the liaison to benefit from your subject-area expertise by notifying the library when you have questions or concerns, and take time to suggest items that should be added to the collection to support your teaching.

And, of course, tell your students about the library and the library liaisons. Encouragement from faculty members greatly increases the frequency of student library visits and leads to better research and better papers.

So who is my library liaison?

Find out who your liaison librarian is by visiting the faculty resources page of the library website: http://lib-serv.tccd.edu/libraries/trinity_liaisons. Here you will also find additional information about library services designed with faculty in mind.

As always, let us know what you think by emailing us at tr.circ@tccd.edu.