

# PSU Library for Grad Students

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## Research Refreshers

Has it been a while since you've been in school? Do you need a refresher? Check out the following:

- Tutorials and How Tos:  
[guides.library.pdx.edu/home/howto](https://guides.library.pdx.edu/home/howto)
- Guides by discipline:  
[guides.library.pdx.edu/](https://guides.library.pdx.edu/)
- Workshops & Tours:  
[library.pdx.edu/services/workshops-tours/](https://library.pdx.edu/services/workshops-tours/)

*Just because you're a graduate student, doesn't mean you have to know everything.*

*When you have questions, ask us.*

[library.pdx.edu/services/ask-a-librarian/](https://library.pdx.edu/services/ask-a-librarian/)

 Ask a Librarian

## Using Library Materials

Like most academic libraries, PSU Library has lots of services and materials for you:

- Check out any print journal for 3 days (bring the journal to the Circulation Desk).
- Check out books for 12 weeks with 3 renewals.
- Freely borrow books from other libraries and have them delivered to PSU for pickup.
- Use interlibrary loan to borrow materials not locally available.

## Using the Library Building

We've got lots of stuff in the building to help you. Food and drinks are ok!

- Two computer labs, one on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor the other on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Student lab workers can help on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, while librarians are available on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Borrow a laptop or iPad to use in the building.
- Quiet floors are the basement, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> floors.
- Group study rooms, a family-friendly study room, practice presentation rooms, and more. Reserve online! [library.pdx.edu/studyrooms/reservation\\_calendar.php](https://library.pdx.edu/studyrooms/reservation_calendar.php)

*Your Librarian:*  
*Emily Ford*  
*Urban & Public Affairs Librarian*  
[forder@pdx.edu](mailto:forder@pdx.edu)  
*Office Hours by Appointment Only*

# Tips to Survive your First Year

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## Establish a System to Track Articles and Other Citations

If you establish this habit during your first year, you won't be scrambling when it comes time to research and write a literature review for your thesis or dissertation. Choose technology or paper: whatever works for you is great.

There are several technological tools that can help you with citation and pdf management. It might help to find out if profs and students in your department have any favorites.

- Zotero: a free software application, browser extension for Firefox, and web account which can sync with multiple computers. [zotero.org](http://zotero.org)
- Mendeley: a free software application, and web account which can sync with multiple computers. It also has a pdf component that allows you to save and annotate pdfs. [mendeley.com](http://mendeley.com)
- EndNote: Not free. Purchase software and licenses from the PSU bookstore. Syncs with its freebie version, EndNote Web. [myendnoteweb.com](http://myendnoteweb.com)
- Papers: Not free. Software that manages pdfs and lets you search for others on the web. [www.mekentosj.com/papers](http://www.mekentosj.com/papers)

Find out more on our Managing Citations Guide: [guides.library.pdx.edu/managecitations](http://guides.library.pdx.edu/managecitations)

**Managing Resources with Zotero and Mendeley Workshops: Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, from 4-5:30 in Millar Library, room 160.**

## Ask for Help Early

If you find yourself doing research or looking for articles and you aren't finding what you need or want, please ask for help. Too many graduate students spend hours in frustration before they seek help from a librarian or professor. Visit us in the building, via chat, or call on the phone. You'll be glad you did.

## Plan Ahead

Good research takes time! Older materials may be stored off site, or you'll need to wait for a book to arrive from another library. Don't wait until the last minute to do your library work.

*Other helpful tools:*

Dropbox: [dropbox.com](http://dropbox.com)

*How to Hack URLs for Searching:* [bit.ly/P8ExyY](http://bit.ly/P8ExyY)

*Remember the Milk:* [rememberthemilk.com](http://rememberthemilk.com)