

This past summer I participated in the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Consortium at the University of Arizona. This was my first opportunity to fully delve into the world of research. In addition, this would be the first time throughout my undergraduate career to fully make use of the all library resources.

Throughout my undergraduate career, I generally used the library for study groups, use of the study rooms, and a place in which I could host quiet meetings. I even was able to use the study rooms for interviews when accepting new members to the many organizations in which I am an executive board member. The library has always been a convenient place to meet and do work because it is quiet and a central location on campus.

This summer I spent the majority of my research hours in the library. I used the computers and study rooms available in the ILC to type up my papers, create my research poster, and to find my sources. I am very appreciative that as a student I have open access to peer-reviewed journals such as the National Council of Family Relations and the Journal of Higher Education, which were where many of my sources for my research paper were found. In addition, I found it useful to use summon (the library search engine) because I was able to search keywords that relate to my topics throughout many other journals which opened up the doors to even more research material.

Some of the greatest features I believe that are provided by the library are how the search engine allows you to read the abstract of a publication before you even download it. In addition, having the ability for a citation to be provided automatically in the search list in any format that is needed was very convenient when saving noteworthy publications. More importantly I believe being guided to the source if it is not directly available through the library is quite helpful.

All these resources made my research experience much more productive and enjoyable. I still use all these resources in and out of the library; since I downloaded VPN to have library access off campus, which is helpful for when I need to work from home. Also I will continue enjoy these many resources as I complete a semester in a lab in Family Studies and Human Development and my senior honors this in Higher Education.

In summation, the library has been a very resourceful place for my academic career and goals. Most importantly, I have been able to produce successful academic projects in this workspace, which is helping me pursue my career goal of one day being a distinguished researcher.