

**Evaluation Criteria for the St. Mary's University
Louis J. Blume Library Undergraduate Research Award**

The emphasis for the *Library Award* is the research process, as evidenced in the research essay. Each of the criteria should be assessed in terms of whether the student has exhibited beginning, competent or excellent skills *in the context of their topic, assignment, and discipline*. This document illustrates some of the competitive factors that you might consider. However, students are not necessarily required to exhibit the examples to attain a skill level.

	1 point	2 points	3 points	Evidence (for internal use only)
The Process				
Search Tools	uses basic tools such as the library catalog, search engines, & full text databases, consults with librarian(s)	uses more tools, such as disciplinary databases, electronic journals, reference indexes, consults with librarian(s)	uses appropriate tools such as Worldcat, archival finding aids, specialized databases, or topical bibliographies, consults with librarian(s)	__ Essay __ Paper/Project __ Bibliography
Search Techniques	uses keyword searching with Boolean operators; browses call number ranges	modifies searches iteratively; identifies new keywords including synonyms, related terms, variant spellings, truncation; uses subject headings	modifies searches iteratively; uses specialized database limiters; identifies key authors; follows footnotes & references	__ Essay __ Paper/Project __ Bibliography
The Sources				
Types & formats	uses basic sources (see below)	adds other source types used in the discipline	seeks out a variety of source types used in the discipline	__ Essay __ Paper/Project __ Bibliography
	possible source types include books, articles, conference proceedings, government publications, dissertations, archival materials, manuscripts, technical reports, working papers, statistics, data sets & audiovisual materials			
Depth & Breadth	finds references from familiar or basic sources	finds references from a variety of sources & disciplines	finds references from multiple perspectives, pursuing comprehensive coverage	__ Essay __ Paper/Project __ Bibliography
Evaluation & Selection	assesses the relevance of sources, which generally apply to the topic	evaluates the quality of sources, which generally support the thesis	carefully evaluates the quality of sources, which strongly support the thesis	__ Essay __ Paper/Project __ Bibliography
	Evaluation of the sources would take into consideration the authority, accuracy, currency, coverage, and potential bias in the sources as well as the overall appropriateness and relevance to thesis			

Applicant _____

Number _____

	1 point	2 points	3 points	Evidence (for internal use only)
Citation Style	cites all materials, but not in a standard or consistent way	cites or credits all materials in a consistent way, for the most part	cites or credits all materials correctly in a standard format, including annotations or notes as appropriate	___ Essay ___ Paper/Project ___ Bibliography
The Project				
Integration of Sources	integrates sources, but not consistently	integrates sources effectively, for the most part	integrates sources appropriately & effectively	___ Essay ___ Paper/Project ___ Bibliography
Composition	demonstrates basic writing skills, but contains some spelling & grammatical errors	demonstrates competent writing skills	demonstrates excellent writing skills	___ Essay ___ Paper/Project ___ Bibliography
The Learning				
Understanding	develops a basic understanding of library research	develops a deeper understanding of library research	develops a thorough understanding of library research that seems likely to persist	___ Essay ___ Paper/Project ___ Bibliography