



Faculty Newsletter for Summer 2016

- At this point of the academic year, librarians have heard faculty members say something like, "the quality of my students' writing this year is worse than ever." Is this your experience? Do you wish that you could do something about it?
- It's May: and now you want to catch up with your reading!



You already know there's no quick fix for these problems, but the library has four suggestions to help: an app, a library service, and two online resources that might assist you in your work this summer and next academic year.

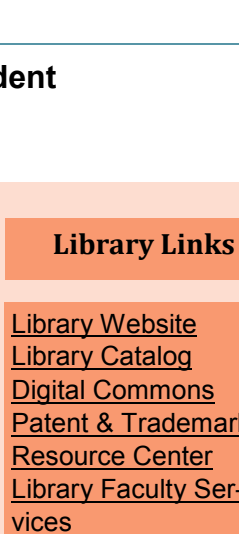
- Browzine** –keep up with your journal reading!
- Student research** –use the librarians!

Literati by Credo

Reability-score.com

Browzine: a new way to keep up with your journal reading

Would you like to keep up (or catch up) with the scholarly journals that you find most useful? We have an app for that: [Browzine](#). Browzine delivers academic articles to your tablet or laptop from open-access journals and library-supported subscriptions. You can arrange your journals on a "bookshelf" and see when a journal has been updated. Browzine synchs across your devices, and you can share your journal selections with your students. Later in 2016 you will be able to share your reading lists as well. You can get the app for iPad in the iTunes app store, and for the Android app on Google Play. You have to establish an account and associate it with your login credentials (proxy) at SHU –but only once. If you have credentials from another library that uses Browzine (such as Yale), you can also switch between libraries and their journal collections.



Example of a Browzine "shelf" image of BrowZine shelf with downloaded documents

A Service You Should Know About: Help with Student Research and Writing

Librarians and the Jandrisevits Learning Center have teamed up to help students with their research and writing. They are also undertaking projects to scale this assistance, so students receive useful help and advice and staff members can manage their time and resources effectively.

Your department has a resource librarian liaison listed [here](#). These librarians and other academic support personnel will be happy to come to work with you and your students to demonstrate the best research and writing practices relevant to your class and subject. Students can also consult with these librarians, and they can follow up with you to indicate whether a student has in fact engaged in a consultation. Librarians work together with the Online Writing Lab ([OWL](#)) and the Writing Center is providing these valuable services to students and faculty.

Library Links

- [Library Website](#)
- [Library Catalog](#)
- [Digital Commons](#)
- [Patent & Trademark Resource Center](#)
- [Library Faculty Services](#)

A Resource You Should Know About: Credo Literati



The University Librarian has partnered with Credo Reference to provide [Literati](#), a guided discovery service. At the top of the Literati page, a user can enter any term (for example: globalization) and Literati will give either general results, or a user can narrow the focus with a drop-down list of subjects (for example: Business, or Health & Medicine). Search results may include a topic page, links to reference resources, and facets to narrow the search focus on the left.

Below the fold on the Literati front page are useful features: short videos about research basics such as selecting information, the importance of citation, basics of peer review, and other topics. You can show these videos in class, or students can look at them as many times as they like (the longest is about 4 minutes).

Credo Literati does not answer every need, but is a great place to start if students are completely bewildered. The topic pages are meant to start to clarify terms, not serve as a sufficient search result. You can also use the tools: a quotation identifier, a person finder (biographical database), an image search, and audio guide to pronunciations. Help is also available in foreign languages, including Spanish and Arabic.

Another resource you should know about: readability-score.com

A handy little rough measurement of readability, this site automates the [Flesch-Kincaid Reading Ease tests](#) designed to measure how difficult a passage in English is to understand. This is by no means infallible, but it is a handy assessment of your students' writing, or your own. Find out [more](#) about how David Child wrote this small online scoring tool.



Simply enter a block of text and click on "measure readability." I entered about 40 lines of one of Donald Trump's speeches, and the resulting score was 58.8 out of 100 (60-80 is considered "easy to read") with an average grade level of 9.6. –draw your own conclusions.

You can subscribe to readability-score.com for all of \$16 per year, and get the ability to score webpages and entire files. It can be a handy and humbling check on your own writing, and that of others.

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