How to Conduct Research Remotely

Description

WithÂ the coronavirus outbreak limitingÂ access to many of the usualÂ support systems, what is available for students who still need to conduct research remotely?Â

The coronavirus outbreak has caused significant disruption to the higher education sector,Â yetÂ for many students,Â aÂ commitmentÂ toÂ research and courseworkÂ hasÂ remained.Â Â

ThisÂ means theyÂ have toÂ navigate theseÂ variousÂ restrictionsÂ toÂ university life in order to stillÂ produce work on time and to a high quality.Â Â

For someÂ students,Â it was simply tooÂ challengingÂ toÂ continueÂ theirÂ researchÂ while at the same timeÂ adhering toÂ socialÂ distancing and hygieneÂ rules,Â forcingÂ research to beÂ cancelledÂ orÂ put on hold.Â Â

AtÂ [Oregon Health and Science University](#), the labs were closedÂ abruptlyÂ in May, putting a quick stop to the research that was being conducted there.Â Â

[Stat News](#)Â reportedÂ that Kathleen Beeson, a sixth-year graduate studentÂ completing a final experiment for a publication she needs to earn her PhD, was givenÂ justÂ one weekâ??s notice beforeÂ her research was stopped.Â

She told the magazine: â??Immediately, I and others were in a race to finish experiments, collect any data that we could, and get the lab prepared for a minimum of six weeks of shutdown.â?Â

OthersÂ had more luck, withÂ remoteÂ and virtualÂ learningÂ allowingÂ themÂ to continue to work onÂ coursework and dissertationÂ projects as planned, with just a few changes to their approach.Â

Itâ??sÂ crucialÂ that,Â duringÂ this period, your students are not leftÂ in the dark when it comes to overcoming the new barriers to research. They must beÂ provided with the support and guidance they need toÂ continue toÂ produce work they are proud of.Â Â

Here are just some of the ways your institution can help students complete critical research during the coronavirus outbreak.Â Â

Library resourcesÂ Â

At the peak of the pandemic, many universitiesÂ campusesÂ were forced to closeÂ to reduce the spread of the infection.Â Â

This meant thatÂ universityÂ librariesÂ becameÂ inaccessible,Â cutting offÂ a crucial source of research for many students completing coursework.Â Â

Now that theÂ coronavirus is more understood, universitiesÂ across the globe areÂ conducting phasedÂ reopenings, which includesÂ finding ingenious waysÂ toÂ offerÂ library servicesÂ while keeping staff and students safe.Â

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[University College London](#) Â is Â offering Â a click and collect service Â to keep contact to a minimum. Â This is a great way of allowing students to access the books they need while Â the university makes plans to reopen safely. Â Â

Online research Â Â

While a physical library is an excellent space to conduct research, your institution should also ensure it has a vast collection of research options available Â to students Â online, allowing them to Â study Â remotely. Â Â

Electronic journals, such as Â [JStor](#) Â and Â [Springer](#), Â are publications published online, Â and can be incredibly valuable for students conducting research. Â Â

Usually, Â electronic Â publications Â require Â log–in details Â in order to access Â content, Â and itâ??s the Â responsibility of the Â institution Â to ensure it has membership Â with Â the most popular online research facilities. Â

Encourage students to alert your library staff Â if there are any Â online Â journals Â they wish to Â access that Â arenâ??t Â already available, Â and Â make sure there is a clear, step-by-step guide available to guide students through the Â access Â process. Â Â

Study help Â Â

With face-to-face contact now limited due to the coronavirus crisis, Â there is a risk that the Â level of guidance and support students receive when completing important work Â will Â diminish. Â Â

However, for some students, one-on-one discussions with teaching staff or peers can be the most Â beneficial Â element of Â this Â process. Â Â

Itâ??s important that your Â institution Â ensures these Â sessions continue, utilizing video chat platforms to allow them to take place virtually. Â Â

Extra guidance or Â flexible Â deadlines might also need to be given in cases where students have been Â significantly Â affected by the pandemic. Â Â

For more information on Â how the coronavirus pandemic Â may affect higher education in the long Â term, please see our latest report: Â *The Coronavirus Crisis and the Future of Higher Education*. Â Â

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