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## Research by subject: a new way to look for information services

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## Research by Subject a new way to look for Information Resources

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In the past, many students have relied on our "Subject Guides" to find information for a research project. The Subject Guides served to group together important research resources for each academic discipline. These guides were meant to help researchers with a step-by-step approach to finding books, appropriate databases, online journals, websites, and many other sources of information on a particular topic.

In the fall of 2004 our focus has changed; we are providing a new service called "Research by Subject," which offers one stop for your research needs. The "Research by Subject" link from the ISR web page takes users to a subject list arranged by academic department. Each link assists users with research for that academic discipline, providing an outline of general sources as well as more specialized information resources. The arrangement of these sources within a web-based portal facilitates navigation, locates appropriate resources more readily, and enables Research Services staff to provide more frequent updates. Researchers can search by course number to go directly to the most appropriate "Research by Subject" page. We expect that frequent users

will bookmark the page that helps them get their research done within a specific department, major, or course.

"Research by Subject" web pages are more interactive, allowing students to search for the appropriate help in the way that makes sense to them — by department or course number or by subject or keyword. Frequently used research services, such as E-Z Borrow and ILLiad for interlibrary loan, are linked from each "Research by Subject" page. Research help and technology assistance, guidelines for evaluating web resources, and citation guides for crediting sources properly are included.

Exciting new features include web newsfeeds for the latest information on a research topic and searches at the click of a button or web link, which are pre-tested to ensure good results.

The best part is how easy it is for students to contact ISR. Students can make the connection to personalized help by using Reference Chat software or by scheduling an appointment with a subject specialist. We especially look forward to receiving feedback from users via a comments form on each "Research by Subject" page.