

I talked with the Committee re: what you could talk about and we'd be interested in hearing:

- > - how you used the library for your research project
- > - what you liked/what was frustrating (about using the Libraries)
- > - what you would change about the way you did your research
- > - what surprises you encountered in doing your research project

If you could do a 7-10 minute talk, and then take questions for a few minutes, that would be great.

Notes for Library InForum talk on my work for the Undergraduate Research Awards.

Thanks for inviting me here today - I missed the awards ceremony for the Library Research Awards, and this feels like I get to make up for it. I wrote two papers for the research awards, submitted one in the Junior category and the other in the Senior category. Because of the way my timing worked out, I ended up winning in both categories.

Both papers involved extensive research into local history, but were about very different eras, for which the library had different materials and resources. The first paper I wrote was on the interactions between the native americans living on the Port Madison Reservation with the settlers living in Port Madison, across the bay, during the 1860s through the 1890s. My initial research consisted of reading several secondary sources, all of which were easy to find simply through the catalog. I sort of backed into the topic, starting my research on missionaries who were active in the area. Suzzallo had plenty of secondary literature on the subject, but I quickly moved on to Special Collections once I had some names to follow. The man I became most interested in was a French Catholic missionary named Eugene Casimir Chirouse. I read many of his letters that Special Collections had in various accessions, mostly to Indian Agents and other missionaries. I also found a UW Masters thesis written by a nun in the 1930s, and I read that as well. In fact, I ran into so much material on this man that I decided that I needed to change my topic, as he had already been covered pretty extensively. I really wanted to work on something that was a little bit more obscure, a little bit more original. Another man whose records had intrigued me in Special Collections was William DeShaw, who owned and ran the general store near Port Madison in the middle and late 1800s. His business ledgers and also other primary sources that related stories and information about his business led me into taking a closer look at the general state of relations between Port Madison and Port Madison Reservation. It was surprising to me how fascinating the business ledgers became, once I had a context in which I could place them and understand the daily activity they represented. I really didn't encounter any frustrations during this research project - the problem was focusing in on a specific enough topic, and one that I could feel was not already exhaustively covered in existing literature. Once I narrowed in, it was a bit frustrating trying to find specific enough information, but clearly I did eventually find enough for the paper. I did also have trouble finding a good period map of the area, and some of the reasons for this became clear to me later, when I had a chance to see the quantity of uncatalogued maps while working in Special Collections...

My other paper also concerned Native Americans in the Pacific Northwest, but in the 1960s and 1970s. For this later period, I used very different resources - mostly microfilm for all of the newspaper articles that figured largely in my paper. For archival sources, which still fascinated me, Special Collections had quite a bit, but I also ended up studying at the Washington State Historical Society in Tacoma, and having to request photocopies of records from the Center for Southwest Research at the University of New Mexico, of all places. Luckily, they were exceedingly helpful and quick in getting me the documents I needed. Other universities I contacted about their archival collections were far less helpful. I found a video through WorldCat and ILL that provided visuals - seeing the people I was studying in moving, living color was quite a different experience from researching figures in the 19th century who only appeared to me through ink on paper. For this research, I also read some secondary literature, but cited very little of it in the paper - it mostly served as background knowledge, except on the legal issues. In writing this paper, I also relied on a former professor (Alexandra Harmon) who had expertise in the legal matters, and could help me to understand the finer points. She helped me with editing these parts of my paper, and saved me from several errors.

In hindsight, the most glaring resources I did not utilize were the librarians themselves. I think if I had these projects to do over again, that is what I would change - even though I feel like I learned a lot doing everything myself, and that it prepared me well for the iSchool, I imagine that I could have found a number of shortcuts with their help. I could also have saved myself from reading some of the secondary sources, perhaps - and I might have found more and better sources that I didn't think of at all.