

I had always assumed that writing a research paper in college would be a painful process that was equal to any Tower of London torture episode. I was pleasantly mistaken. I had written research papers before, but never one so heavy on library use.

The assignment was to choose a famous person or event (from 1985 or earlier) that changed the world of journalism. At first glance I knew exactly the person I would choose: Hunter S. Thompson. He was the perfect candidate for a research paper. He was interesting, quirky, talented, and fun. The problem with choosing him, however, was that I only knew about his vast drug use and his novel, *Fear and Loathing In Las Vegas*.

I turned to the one person I knew I could trust to give me sound advice on such a matter...my mother, Yelena Luckert. As a librarian and my mother she told me the best thing to do is to start early. Believe it or not, I originally assumed that I could get by on my librarian and curator blended genetics. I thought my genes would somehow illuminate the computer keys that would type up my project. This of course was unrealistic. It took my mother showing me *WorldCat* and *Zotero* to change my mind that I actually needed assistance. Boy, am I happy that I reached out and got assistance! My mother gave me the contact information for Stephen Henry, who was the most helpful tool I had writing this paper. I would have drowned without his amazing guidance.

A challenge of writing about Thompson is trying to find articles. He wrote a lot for *Rolling Stone*, but one had to pay in order to retrieve his works online. The Performing Arts Library, however, had his work on microfilm. In the moment I thought to myself...microfilm...isn't that what Clarice Starling used in "Silence of the Lambs?" To my horror and amazement that was it. I then thought couldn't there be another source I could use? I felt, however, that primary sources were too important to cut short in my paper. I found Thompson's writing very unique and colorful. This prompted me to make it the core of my paper, rather than secondary sources being the core.

Stephen Henry not only took time out of his busy day to help me find the correct articles in their microfilm collection, but he also sat down with me for at least an hour in order to teach me how to use the machine. He sat with me the entire time bearing with my naiveté and incapability to stop at the correct frame. He was personable, funny, and made the process so much easier. Everything I found that day was crucial to my paper.

After the enlightening '80s research rewind, I formulated my assignment. The only issue left was the citations. I had done citations in MLA format before, but I had never done them in the Chicago style. I stubbornly forced myself to use Chicago citations, rather than using MLA ones (like some of my peers). I felt that in the long run I would need to know Chicago. I am so happy I chose this.

My path to mastering Chicago citations was not easy. I used the various tools the library supplied, but I still was not very sure on how to properly execute them. I decided to schedule an appointment with Professor Ira Chinoy in order to learn this skill. He also aided me immensely. He went step by step through my paper and covered it in red marks showing exactly how to place citations. It was unreal to have such an accomplished writer go through step-by-step and aide me in learning a new style.

I have been so lucky to be helped by such awesome and talented professors and librarians at this university. I really do hope that their wisdom and generosity is reflected within my paper, because I do feel that I have grown through this experience. I believe that I have made solid connections at the university that will help me for the rest of my career here.

I have grown up in Mckeldin library. It has really been a second home to me. I still remember sleeping in my mother's old office and drawing silly pictures on her notepads (which still hang on her office walls today). I have met so many great people from my experiences within the library's walls. The library staff is also so friendly, kind, and genuine. They have seen me grow as a person, and now I hope they see me grow as a writer. I have seen the staff, the collections, and the library itself grow and change, but its fundamental qualities have remained the same. So, I am not sure what to change about the libraries, but as any librarian's daughter knows I can always place my opinions in the suggestion box.