Introduction to the Process of Academic Research with Interactive Modules

**Module 1 - Developing a Topic**

The first module in the series focuses on developing research questions and keywords. Students will learn how to formulate a search strategy to prepare for database searching and complete an activity in which they think through their own research question using the steps of the research process.

**Module 2 - Searching for Sources**

In the second module, students learn the basics of using library databases to explore a research question and find relevant sources. The modules outlines the positive and negative aspects of searching with Google and provides video demonstrations of database and catalog searching.

**Module 3 - Evaluating Information**

The final module in the series emphasizes the importance of evaluating sources. Students learn the basic criteria for evaluating credibility and relevance of different information sources. They are also introduced to the peer review process and how to read a research article; the final activity asks students to evaluate an academic article.

Visit the Library Composition Modules library guide to view the complete modules online: [http://library.louisville.edu/compositionmodules](http://library.louisville.edu/compositionmodules)
Embedding Composition Library Modules in Blackboard

1. Go to the section of your Blackboard course where you want students to access the modules.

2. Be sure that Edit Mode is turned ON in the upper right corner.

3. Go to Build Content and select Web Link.

4. Under Web Link Information, provide a Name for the module you are embedding and paste the URL for that module. Each module has a different URL as follows:

   **Module #1: Developing Research Questions and Key Words**  
   https://www.softchalkcloud.com/scorecenter/lti/Gdvyzmp2qw4bVI

   **Module #2: Exploring Search Engines and Library Databases**  
   https://www.softchalkcloud.com/scorecenter/lti/fd1XFYzyjTgIMS

   **Module #3: Evaluating Sources and Understanding Scholarly Articles**  
   https://www.softchalkcloud.com/scorecenter/lti/sy0oSaP1NeHgC3
5. Check the box next to **This link is to a Tool Provider** and select **Yes** to **Enable Evaluation**. This will generate a column for the module in the Blackboard **Grade Center**.

6. Set the **Points Possible** for the module. Each module is worth **10 points**, based on multiple-choice questions included in the modules.

*Please note that the modules also include other interactive elements and short essay questions. For ease of grading, these elements/questions do not have specific point values. However, you will be able to read student responses to the essay questions via Blackboard to check their work and assign additional points if you wish.*

7. Select **Yes** to make the module visible to students and set a **Due Date** if you wish. Click **Submit** to finish the process of embedding the module. Repeat the steps above to embed each module.

### Grading Library Modules

1. At the end of each library module, students should click **Finish** to ensure that their scores are submitted. Students can obtain a **Score Receipt** by entering their e-mail address.
2. In the Blackboard **Grade Center**, you will see a column for each library module you have embedded in your course. If the student completed the module, the score (out of 10 points) will appear in the column. To read any essay responses or to view additional information, click on **View Grade Details**.

3. Next, click on **Grade User Activity** to launch the SoftChalk Score Center.

4. In the SoftChalk Score Center, click on **Attempts** and select the date the student completed the module. You will then be able to see student response details, including any essay responses.

5. SoftChalk Score Center has a number of additional features, including the ability to provide feedback to the student. If you’d like to explore these features or if you have any questions, please contact **Rob Detmering** or **Amber Ballinger** in the Ekstrom Library Research Assistance and Instruction Department, 502-852-0433.