



Rocky Mountain College librarians use Credo during First Year Experience workshops to lay a foundation of highly effective research skills.

When librarians at Rocky Mountain College (RMC) were asked to support the research elements of First Year Writing courses, they used Credo Online Reference service as the starting point to help familiarize students with the library’s resources while cultivating essential foundational skills.

Addressing Research Skill Gaps in the FYE:

Librarians found most students arriving at RMC lacked experience navigating databases to locate scholarly, peer-reviewed sources. The First Year Writing course gave them the opportunity to build on these skills, however course materials and topics varied depending on the faculty member. Credo Online Reference Service provided a solution with its broad subject coverage and easy to navigate database.

The Right Resource for Library Instruction In Any Class:

Credo helped the librarians demonstrate the essential step of locating background information on any topic when beginning a research project. Features like Topic Pages, subject filters, Key Concepts, and the Mind Map brainstorming tool helped students better define their research topics and expand their keyword vocabulary. From using Credo during the sessions, students felt more comfortable expanding their search into the library’s other resources without becoming overwhelmed by the volume of materials.

Thanks to the collaborative use of Credo between the library and FYE faculty, the RMC library has become a hub for research, tutoring, and even leisure reading. Students have gained the confidence to use the library resources to access information and continue to build critical information literacy skills.

“ Our librarians focus on Credo in FYE classes because it’s a good place to begin locating background information on a topic before branching out into the library’s other resources.”

— *Precious McKenzie, Assistant Professor of English, Coordinator of the First Year Experience*

ABOUT ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

- Established in 1878
- Located in Billings, Montana
- Private college - 50 liberal arts- and professionally oriented-majors in 24 undergraduate disciplines
- 1,035 enrolled students

ABOUT PRECIOUS MCKENZIE

Precious McKenzie has a PhD in English from the University of South Florida and she is an assistant professor of English at Rocky Mountain College. She is also the coordinator for the First-Year Experience and teaches in the First-Year Writing Program.



ABOUT CREDO ONLINE REFERENCE SERVICE

Credo Online Reference Service enhances the research experience through authoritative reference content and a one-stop exploratory search platform that drives usage of all trusted library resources. Features like Research Quick Tips, Mind Map, and Real-time Reference make this the ideal place for students starting their research or learning about the research process.