

UCSB Library Award for Undergraduate Research

Judging Criteria

We will award a total of six prizes, awarded by category based on the topic of the submission:

Categories	1st Place	2nd Place
Humanities	\$750	\$500
Social Sciences	\$750	\$500
Science & Engineering	\$750	\$500

Submissions will be evaluated by a panel of judges composed of UCSB faculty members and subject specialist librarians.

Judging panels for each of the three broad categories will consider the points outlined below. Submissions will be stronger if they:

1. Make extensive, original use of UCSB Library resources, collections, and services.
2. Demonstrate an ability to evaluate and synthesize library resources and to use them in a project that shows originality and has the potential to lead to original research in the future.
3. Show evidence of understanding of the intellectual and ethical processes and standards of research and inquiry.
4. Demonstrate originality of thought, mastery of content, clear writing, and a responsible critical approach.

Project (30 points)

Your scholarly or creative project should be your original work that reflects sophisticated use of Library materials, resources, and services. Projects that have been submitted to the Undergraduate Research Slam or to the Research Colloquium are eligible, as are projects that have been submitted for UCSB course credit.

Bibliography (30 points)

Your bibliography is a comprehensive document of the sources that you used for your project, and should use the bibliographic format and conventions most appropriate to your academic discipline. You do *not* need to annotate your bibliography. Your bibliography should:

- Cite all sources you use, even if you do not directly quote from them.
- Show a range of resource types appropriate to the discipline and to the information need. These may include primary and secondary sources, scholarly and popular literature, data, articles, original compositions, sound or video recordings, computer models, and more.
- Be accurate and free of typos.

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Reflective essay (40 points)

Your 500-750-word reflective essay should give us an overall sense of your research strategies and your general understanding and use of scholarly and non-scholarly materials. Tell us about the criteria you used in choosing your sources, such as their authority, credibility, scope, and coverage. Your essay should also address your research strategy, and what motivated you to do the project. Some other points that you may want to cover:

- How you identified the types of information to use.
- How you discovered the Library resources needed to find information. For example, did you use any of the Library's discovery tools, subject guides, Special Research Collections finding guides?
- How you designed and planned your search strategies.
- Your use of keywords or controlled vocabularies: did you learn new terms and concepts related to the line of inquiry?
- Any efforts you made to obtain materials not locally available.
- Your strategies for locating specific types of resources, such as primary sources, unpublished materials, particular versions or editions, or discipline-specific materials.
- Your use of specific investigative techniques unique to your particular discipline.