

Deans' Research Assistants Program (DRA)

The Basics:

Deans' Research Assistants are students hired, trained, and supervised by the library to support scholarly research by the Deans and other faculty. DRAs are available for small, short-term research upon request. DRAs are **not** individual RAs and are not substitutes for hiring your own RAs if you have ongoing research projects.

“Small” and “Short-Term”:

Though it is expected that projects will be around 8 hrs max and will be completed in under 1 month, the timeline for completion will depend on the nature and complexity of the project **and** DRA student availability. No projects will be assigned to DRAs during the last week of a term or the final exam period. The availability of DRAs during intersessions and summer will depend on availability.

Requesting DRA Help:

Email your request to Stephanie Davidson at sdavidson@willamette.edu. When making requests, please provide as much information as possible about the work you want a DRA to complete, including a description of the final product. Are you looking for a spreadsheet with statutory provisions, an annotated bibliography of sources, an email listing the articles found, or a memo?

A librarian will provide training specific to your project and more general training on managing project work and timelines, setting interim goals and deadlines, keeping notes, and preparing professional products to deliver, as applicable. A librarian will also supervise the work and ensure adherence to your deadlines.

Examples of projects appropriate for DRAs:

- Adding Perma.cc (archival) links
- Bluebooking (or MLA or another style)
- Compiling lists of primary or secondary sources on a topic, with notes
- Creating 50-state lists of statutes on a topic

Projects outside the scope of DRAs:

- Research expected to take more than 8 hours to complete
- Ongoing research for an article or book
- Drafting essays or articles
- Typing, scanning, copying

Questions? Email Stephanie Davidson at sdavidson@willamette.edu.