

# CASE STUDY



Drake University uses Credo to build students' confidence in the research process and lay the foundation for strong research papers.

**STEM librarian Dan Chibnall found that students in his workshops were often uncomfortable with their assigned research topics, unsure of where to begin looking for information. Chibnall used Credo Online Reference Service to help them brainstorm, make connections, build their subject vocabulary, and explore appropriate resources—all without overwhelming them so early in the research process.**

### **Stumbling Out of the Gate**

Students in Chibnall's classes had trouble narrowing the broad concepts they were learning about in their courses, often disoriented by the vast amount of information they were finding on topics they were learning about. Chibnall found by using Credo as a starting point, students could see an array of subtopics and focused concepts, allowing them to dig down more thoughtfully and put together concise points for their research assignments.

### **Building Momentum with Credo**

Chibnall had students begin their research in Credo, demonstrating how they could use the Mind Map, subject limiter, and Key Concepts feature in their initial searches. Afterwards, students would pair up, one student explaining their topic while the other attempted to pull an entry from Credo on the topic. This helped solidify students' understanding and build their research skills. Lastly, he showed students Credo's "Search Other Sites" option, so they could target more specific library resources to meet their exact needs. These exercises and using Credo, resulted in more specific research projects and increased student confidence.

**"The final research projects borne out of this process demonstrated much more appropriate scope compared to the broadly-written papers I'd seen prior to incorporating Credo in my instruction sessions."**

*— Dan Chibnall, STEM Librarian*

### **ABOUT DRAKE UNIVERSITY**

- Des Moines, Iowa
- Mid-sized private university
- Enrollment: 4,800 from 45 states and more than 42 countries
- First-year students: 758
- Offers more than 70 majors, minors, and concentrations and 20 graduate degrees, offered through 6 colleges and schools

### **ABOUT DAN CHIBNALL**

Dan is the STEM Librarian at Drake University and currently serves as President of the Iowa Library Association. His focus is on embedded librarianship, information literacy skills, science communication, and helping students build more robust research skills & habits. He has presented at numerous conferences over the years on teaching collaborations and integrating research skills into curricula.

### **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.