

## Many Paths: Undergraduate Research & the Sabbatical

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Since 2014 my interest in student research beyond the library has grown. The question, "how does a librarian support the campus to develop strong student research, scholarly, and creative programs to help students develop deeper engagement and a stronger sense of their capabilities as they graduate?", encouraged my curiosity. As a result of my sabbatical research during 2021, several student/undergraduate research themes developed. Additionally, as Research Librarian for IU East, I work with the faculty and staff of our campus to further student research opportunities. From this work, three presentation proposals developed and were accepted at the [CUR \(Council on Undergraduate Research\) 2023 Connect UR Conference](#) in Pittsburgh, PA. An InULA grant in 2023 partially funded the cost to attend the conference, while also funding continued research.

Two proposals were accepted and then recorded for the online portion of the conference on June 22 & 23, 2023. The first is titled: [What websites tell us about student/undergraduate research: An observational study](#). This study provides website insights into the connections and organizational participants of undergraduate research (UR) on most higher ed campuses. Search terms are provided along with a reusable rubric to provide ideas for study replication. The findings from the observational website study include good practices; innovative ideas; suggestions of how the structures and information impacts general knowledge; and how the information may be used to encourage student participation.

The second presentation, [Growing a Student Research Journal and the Pandemic](#), tells the story of a path forward for the journal even in the disaster that was COVID. This 8-minute recorded story includes: how an internship helped to develop student support; a marketing plan; goal development; and how conversation informs planning.

The third presentation, delivered June 27, 2023 at Duquesne University, the conference site, is titled, [How can undergraduate students participate in UR at a regional campus university: A case study?](#) This study was co-presented with Professor Marcus Pomper, Dean of the School of Natural Sciences & Mathematics at IU East. A quote from the presentation abstract,

...with over 50% of our students being enrolled in programs that are entirely online. Even students who are enrolled in face-to-face programs avail themselves of our deep offering of online courses. Indiana University prides itself in offering a full co-curricular experience to students, regardless of the student's program modality...

offers the breadth of study, while individual case studies gave brief views of online and on-campus student research.

Throughout my work with student research, I look for ways to connect student works to experiences and then to students' futures. Concepts from my undergraduate education degree, like self-actualization and from academic librarianships' ACRL information literacy framework's, Authority Is Constructed and Contextual frame are useful to inform outcomes of student research. These and other concepts offer undergraduates a path to their own authority and autonomy, which ideally will help students be self-aware and recognize their own capabilities, knowledge, and aptitudes.