

Mary M Fertitta

### Undergraduate Research Award Article Submission Essay

The research project that I am submitting was an assignment that I completed for my History 4497: Research Seminar Non-Western History class. Dr. Ryan Ronnenberg taught the class during the Fall 2018 semester. The topic of the assignment was genocide. The class topic focused on the 1994 genocide that took place in Rwanda. Dr. Ronnenberg assigned several books for the class to read and discuss in order to get background information about Rwanda and the Rwandan genocide. However, the class was allowed to research any topic surrounding genocide in general or a particular genocide that took place in the world. The subject matter had to receive Dr. Ronnenberg's approval. I chose to keep my research focused on the 1994 genocide that took place in Rwanda. More particularly, I focused my research on Catholic priests, nuns, and Protestant ministers' involvement or support of the genocide in Rwanda.

The KSU library was a significant contributor to my source material. As stated above, I purchased four books assigned to the class for the background. I made several additional purchases for my research. Therefore, books were not necessarily what I was looking for in the library. However, the use of KSU's library online was invaluable. I used the online library to search for peer-reviewed journal articles, newspaper articles, additional books, and general background information for my research. One of the essential parts of my library search was that I was able to limit my selection to particular databases and to view only peer-reviewed journal articles. I could download entire peer-reviewed articles by renowned authors for later reading, taking notes, or print the articles directly from the search results. More precisely, as noted in my Bibliography, I was able to download more than a dozen journal articles directly from my KSU library search results.

I did have an excellent background in the “how-to” of using KSU’s library. On at least three occasions during my time as a student at KSU, I had the opportunity to be shown specific aspects of KSU’s library, especially the use of the online library. These classes were English Composition, the History department’s Historical Methods, and the English department’s 19th Century British Literature class. Each of these classes gave different ways to use the library’s online search application, such as comprehensive research to specifically searching in English Literature databases or specific databases used for History research. It is all there – right on D2L. KSU’s library is a plethora of information, and the staff is most helpful.

Furthermore, in addition to the Rwanda genocide assignment, I have used the library for several research assignments during my years as a student at KSU. For the Rwanda genocide research assignment, although I did not borrow books from other libraries, I did use the book loan process on several other assignments. I was able to get books from Georgia State, West Georgia, and other universities in the area. The process is so efficient and quick with borrowed books arriving at KSU’s library, usually on the next day. I also have signed out books that were available in the KSU library, making it very easy to have primary source material. The library is a tremendous asset and is extremely helpful to any student participating in research.