





Faculty Member Contact Information

Name	Mr. Jacob Del Rio
Contact Info	
SIUE Email	jdelrio@siue.edu
Campus Box	1063
Department	Library and Information Services

1 Funded URCA Assistant

	This position is ONLY open to students who have declared a major in this discipline.	M
	This project deals with social justice issues.	
	This project deals with sustainability (green) issues.	
	This project deals with human health and wellness issues.	
	This project deals with community outreach.	
X	This mentor's project is interdisciplinary in nature.	I

Are you willing to work with students from outside of your discipline? If yes, which other disciplines?

- Yes, all students who might use Library resources are relevant to this project

How many hours per week will your student(s) be required to work in this position?

(Minimum is 6 hours per week; typical is 9)

- 8 hours

Will it be possible for your student(s) to earn course credit?

- No

Location of research/creative activities:

- Lovejoy Library

Brief description of the nature of the research/creative activity?

Researchers leading this project are Library & Information Services faculty Jacob Del Rio and Marlee Graser. The research project focuses on conducting a comprehensive usability test on the Library's web discovery interfaces to enhance user experience and optimize information retrieval processes. The study aims to identify where users succeed and fail, gain an understanding of users' information seeking behaviors and goals, and evaluate the effectiveness of the discovery interfaces, their design, and customizations. The researchers will observe patterns and behaviors of students as they interact with Lovejoy Library's website, discovery platform, and electronic resources by giving a small sample of students broad tasks related to conducting research for introductory-level course assignments. Additionally, this research will involve students in collecting and interpreting the data alongside the researchers. By comparing the interpretations of both the student/peer researcher and the researchers, the researchers aim to explore disparities in how usability testing data is understood and analyzed. In a small test case, the comparative analysis will allow us to examine whether peers, with potentially different perspectives and levels of expertise, interpret usability data and information search process experiences differently or more effectively than non-peer researchers. Ultimately, the research endeavors to bridge the gap between user experiences and expectations and interface performance for the Library's users.

Brief description of student responsibilities?

In this research project, students will act as co-investigators in the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data alongside the researchers. They will spend a week familiarizing themselves with the Library's digital interfaces that they will be observing. They will then be tasked with assisting in identifying user tasks and goals to study, potential interface features to focus on, participant recruitment, and data collection and analysis of user interactions, behaviors, and goals to determine patterns and trends. Additionally, students will contribute unique perspectives and insights, potentially offering alternative interpretations of the data. They will also collaborate with the researchers on recommendations for changes to the Library's web discovery interfaces.

URCA Assistant positions are designed to provide students with *research or creative activities* experience. As such, there should be measurable, appropriate outcome goals.

What exactly should your student(s) have learned by the end of this experience?

The URCA assistant assisting with this research will acquire a comprehensive understanding of usability testing methodologies. They will also develop skills in data collection, analysis, and interpretation and gain insights into user behaviors and preferences. Through hands-on involvement in the research process, the student will develop critical thinking skills and generate actionable recommendations for interface optimization. Their collaborative engagement with the

researchers will also provide them with exposure to real-world research and teach teamwork and communication skills essential for their professional development.

Requirements of Students

If the position(s) require students to be available at certain times each week (as opposed to them being able to set their own hours) please indicate all required days and times:

- We can select students that are available Monday - Friday from 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM.

If the location of the research/creative activities involves off campus work, must students provide their own transportation?

- All work will be at Lovejoy Library.

Must students have taken any prerequisite classes? Please list classes and preferred grades:

- No

Other requirements or notes to applicants:

- N/A