

Bonnie W. Oldham Library Research Prize Rubric for Submissions

Last updated 2025-11-13

Questions about this rubric can be directed to the Library Research Prize Planning Committee (libraryresearchprize@scranton.edu) at The University of Scranton

From the [Bonnie W. Oldham Library Research Prize Website](#):

Selection Criteria

A judging panel composed of University of Scranton faculty and staff will judge entries on the evidence provided in the application package. Judges will be invited from the faculty in each of the University's three colleges, the Library faculty, the Library Advisory Committee, and both the Center for Teaching Excellence and the Office of Student Support & Success.

Submissions will be evaluated based on how well they provide evidence of the following criteria:

- Demonstrates use of library resources, including collections, services, and/or spaces.
- Demonstrates through use of sources appropriate levels, types, and breadth of scholarship for research need.
- Demonstrates personal learning and understanding of the research process.
- Demonstrates an Ignatian dimension to research through topic, methodology, findings, and/or reflection on the research process that represents one or more Ignatian characteristics applied to research.

View the full judging rubric [this file] to better tailor your application to the selection criteria. You can also read our [tips to help you describe your research](#).

Expectations for achievement will be commensurate with the applicant's class year, the course level of the project (e.g., 100-level, 200- to 400-level, or Graduate level), and the requirements of the discipline.

In the event the judging panel determines that none of the applications submitted for the research prize are meritorious, then no prize will be awarded.

Special Note: The use of AI writing generators to complete any of the Bonnie W. Oldham Library Research Prize application components is prohibited.

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BLIND APPLICATION CODE (e.g., UG1-A, UG2-B, G-C, etc.) _____

PROJECT LEVEL (check one):

☐ Undergraduate Foundational (100-level) ☐ Undergraduate Upper-Level (200- to 400-level) ☐ Graduate

Judges, please review all components of the application package (description of research, project, bibliography, and faculty support form) for evidence of the following four criteria.

CRITERIA (up to 5 points each)	DEVELOPING (1 point)	PROFICIENT (3 points)	ACCOMPLISHED (5 points)	SCORE	Rationale: Why did you assign the score you did?
Demonstrates use of library resources , including collections (e.g., print, electronic/digital, archival, etc.), services (e.g., information literacy instruction, research services, circulation services, interlibrary loan, etc.), and/or spaces.	Mentions library resources minimally or not at all	Mentions library resources but fails to connect them to personal learning or research process	Explicitly connects use of library resources to personal learning and research process		
Demonstrates through use of sources appropriate levels (e.g., academic, professional, popular, etc.), types (e.g., primary including archival, secondary, etc.), and breadth of scholarship for research need .	Uses levels and types of scholarship that do not adequately fulfill the research need	Uses levels and types of scholarship that meet the research need	Uses levels and types of scholarship that both meet and exceed the research need in unexpected ways		
Demonstrates personal learning and understanding of the research process.	Minimally describes research process and/or personal learning	Describes research process including steps taken and connects them to personal learning	Provides detailed description of research process including steps taken and connects them to personal learning and future applications		
Demonstrates an Ignatian dimension to research through topic, methodology, findings, and/or reflection on the research process that represents one or more Ignatian characteristics applied to research (see page 3).	Minimal to no evidence of a connection to one or more Ignatian characteristics applied to research	Some evidence of a connection to one or more Ignatian characteristics applied to research	Substantial evidence of a connection to one or more Ignatian characteristics applied to research		

TOTAL SCORE _____/20

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Ignatian Characteristics Applied to Research

Based on explanations offered by The University of Scranton Jesuit Center: <https://www.scranton.edu/about/jesuit-tradition/ignatian-spirituality.shtml>

Magis: The magis is “characterized by a restless desire for excellence” which in research might be reflected by intellectual depth of study of a subject of inquiry and/or persistence through challenges to a successful end.

Care of the Person / Cura Personalis: *Cura Personalis* is a Latin phrase that translates as “Care for the Person” which in research might be reflected by the researcher’s demonstrated care for their subject of inquiry which may include engaging it from multiple perspectives and/or a personal connection to the subject matter studied resulting in a personal transformation of the researcher through the research process.

Service of Faith and the Promotion of Justice: Jesuit education has as its goal to form “people for and with others” and research that reflects this characteristic of Jesuit education will illustrate through topic, methodology, findings, and/or reflection on the research process a “dedication to service, a concern for the common good,” and/or “a commitment to promoting justice.”

Contemplation in Action: Contemplation in action is characterized by “learning that is both active and reflective” which in research might be reflected by the researcher’s ability to articulate how their learning — about their subject of inquiry and/or about research itself — “motivates them to think and learn on their own” both now and in the future and/or gives the researcher an “appreciation of their own agency.”

Forwarding the Universal Apostolic Preferences of the Society of Jesus: The [Universal Apostolic Preferences](#) (UAPs) are the articulated priorities of the Society of Jesus from 2019-2029 in all of their ministries including education; research that forwards the UAPs will make a connection to one or more of the preferences through topic, methodology, findings, and/or reflection on the research process; the UAPs are:

- To show the way to God through the Spiritual Exercises and discernment ([details here](#))
- To walk with the poor, the outcasts of the world, those whose dignity has been violated, in a mission of reconciliation and justice ([details here](#))
- To accompany young people in the creation of a hope-filled future ([details here](#))
- To collaborate, with Gospel depth, for the protection and renewal of God’s Creation ([details here](#))