

# Transitioning to College: Helping You Succeed

<http://www.transitioning2college.org>

## Transcript of *Welcome to Academic Libraries*

### Introduction:

**Brian:** Hey, you guys must be Jason and Emily, right?

**Emily and Jason:** Hi. campus. So, how are things going so far?

**Jason:** [dreamscape] Help! Is anybody out here? [reality] Pretty good, so far.

**Emily:** [dreamscape] This is hopeless! [reality] Fine. I like it.

**Brian:** Well that's good, and don't worry. I promise things get much easier.

**Brian:** Today we're going to start out at the most important place here on campus—the library. For me, this is the best place to do work here on campus. But enough chatting about it; let's go check it out.

### Library and Major Differences:

**Emily:** This is the library?

**Brian:** It's probably a little different than the library you're used to in high school.

**Jason:** You mean I have to use this place?

**Emily:** My high school library is a fraction of the size of this.

**Brian:** The library will be one of the meeting places we use this school year. Plus, it's the best place to find me usually when I'm not in class.

**Emily:** You have that much research to do?

**Brian:** No. The library is much more than a place to just study. I do study here and I do group projects, but I use the computers and I check my email. I even use the math tutoring that's available here. Plus, if you want, you can even get a cup of coffee or just hang out.



**Emily:** That's different from any of the libraries I've ever known.

**Brian:** Yeah, I had no idea until I got here myself. But that's good; let's talk about those library differences. You've already mentioned that the library is much bigger than ones that you're used to, but don't let that intimidate you. You probably have friends starting colleges or universities, and they're going through the same thing. University libraries are large because they need to be. They support hundreds of areas and thousands of students and professors studying in those areas. So when you think about it, it makes sense.

Another major difference is while smaller colleges may only have one library, universities have several. Take a look at the college map. In addition to the main library, we have six branch libraries in such specific areas like architecture and music. You may need to use these libraries in the future.

**Jason:** But, what about the important stuff? Like, where do I check books out at?

**Brian:** Sure, that's another major difference. At most school libraries, you have one central location where you can get all the help you need, but at university libraries they have multiple service points. Here we have three desks to help you: circulation, periodicals, and reference. Let me show you. Circulation is right over here.

## **Circulation:**

**Jason:** Circulation. This is where we check books out, right?

**Brian:** You got it.

**Emily:** It says circulation and reserves. What's *reserves*?

**Brian:** Reserves is where your professor can put a book or article aside for you to read. You pick them up at this desk here. Most university libraries have a system like this. Come on, periodicals is right over here.

## **Periodicals:**

**Brian:** This is the periodicals desk where they can help you with magazines, articles, and newspapers. See this area in front of the periodicals desk? This is current periodicals where they store recent magazines and journals.

**Jason:** What about the older magazines and stuff? Where can I find those?

**Brian:** Right this way. Here they are.

**Jason:** But they look like books.

**Brian:** That's right. After the library has a year or so worth of these, they're bound.

**Emily:** Oh, I see. They have the titles printed on them.

**Brian:** That brings up a good point, too. The library organizes these alphabetically by title. Before we head downstairs, I thought I'd take you up to one of the floors where all the books are kept.

## **Collection in the Shelves:**

**Emily:** Wow, look at all these books.

**Brian:** The best thing I can tell you is always look up the call number first before coming up to the shelves.

**Emily:** Like the Dewey Decimal System, right?

**Brian:** Sure, some colleges might use that system. Here they use the Library of Congress numbering system. The call number is a few letters followed by a series of numbers. Oh, they also don't separate the books by section like biographies and fiction either. They have all of the books in one big collection.

**Jason:** So let me get this straight. If I want a book by Mark Twain, I don't look in the fiction book section under "T" for Twain?

**Brian:** That's right. You'd look it up in the online catalog, find the call number, and then go to that place on the shelf.

## **Reference Desk:**

**Brian:** I chose to end our tour here at the reference desk because I believe it's the most important point in the entire library. In fact, if I can give you any advice at all, it's get familiar with the reference desk and don't be afraid to ask the librarians any questions. If they don't know the answers, they'll find someone who does. Hey, Sarah.

**Sarah:** Hi.

**Brian:** I love this place. You can do so much in this little area. You can use the computers, you can check the collection and the indexes, and help is only a few feet away. Why don't you take a minute and look around.

**Emily:** Is it all right if I go check my email real quick?

**Brian:** Sure, go ahead.

**Emily:** Thanks for showing us around and thanks for taking the time out to be our mentor.

**Brian:** You're welcome, Emily. I remember what it's like to be new. Where's Jason?

**Emily:** I don't know.

**Jason:** I like the library.

**Brian:** I'm glad, Jason. Look, don't you guys have orientation class?

**Emily:** Yeah, we have five minutes.

**Brian:** Okay, well, I'll email you about the time for our next meeting. Until then, just get ahold of me if you need anything. Okay?

**Emily:** Thanks again, Brian.

**Jason:** Yeah, thanks. Later, Brian.