



## LIS 2901/LIS 2902 Individual Research Instructions and Form

### Opportunities for Individual Research

You have several options to conduct individual research as part of your MLIS degree program. Registering for LIS 2901 (3 credits) Individual Research 1 allows you to conduct individual research under the supervision of an Information Culture and Data Stewardship faculty member. (You also have the option of conducting a second research project under the supervision of a faculty member by registering for LIS 2902 Individual Research 2 for 3 credits.)

You have **3 options** for individual research by registering for LIS 2901 and/or LIS 2902:

1. Work with a faculty member who is conducting research and looking for a student to assist. Faculty members seek out students for these projects.
2. Conduct action research with an organization on a specific research project the organization wants to carry out.
3. Devise a research project in an area you want to explore in more depth and persuade an ICDS faculty member to work with you.

*For each of these options, you must secure an ICDS faculty member to approve your research proposal and to advise you as you carry out your research project before you will be permitted to register for LIS 2901 or LIS 2902.*

**If you choose Option 3** to develop an individual research (IR) project, you need to identify a specific aspect of your knowledge base or your own professional development on which to focus. This could be specific; for example, you could investigate:

- An area you want to investigate (add to your knowledge base)
- A problem to which you want to propose a solution (this may be related to your work situation)
- Professional competencies (knowledge base, skill-set, behavior) that you want to develop, improve, enhance, and/or take to the next level of excellence (e.g., content-building, skill development or professional behavior)

Please answer these questions using the form below, then make an appointment to meet with an MLIS faculty member of your choice to seek the faculty member's agreement to serve as your advisor for you LIS 2901 (or LIS 2902) proposed individual research project.

1. What are your objectives for your Independent Research (IR)? What do you hope to accomplish?
2. Why is your IR worth doing? Why is your IR important for you?
3. Will you have to seek permission from anyone to carry out your research?
4. Are there any resources you will need to carry out your IR?
5. Budget: Will you need to purchase anything you'll need to carry out your research?
6. What research will you have to gather to help you carry out your IR? What are sources where you can locate information? Will you seek advice from experts on the topic?
7. What strategies you will use to carry out IR? What will be the specific steps in your process?
8. Prepare a working timeline of milestones (significant steps of progress toward objective) you must meet to accomplish your IR. When do you hope to meet each step of process? What's a realistic

amount of time you will need to complete each step?

9. Which objectives of your IR are measurable? If you don't have measurable objectives, what measurable aspects of IR success can you assess? What are your quantitative measures and qualitative measures of success?
10. Assessment: What kinds of formative assessment can you build in at each step? How will you modify your IR based on this formative assessment? Summative Assessment: How will you know if your IR is successful at the end?

## LIS 2901/2902 Individual Research Form

After you have complete this form, make an appointment with a faculty member you think matches your research interest, share your completed form and ask if the faculty member will serve as your research project advisor. Secure the faculty member's signature of approval.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Faculty research advisor:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Faculty email address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**I agree to serve as this student's advisor (print name):** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Faculty signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

If you choose Option 2 (Conduct action research with an organization on specific research project the organization wants to carry out.) please secure the approval of a site supervisor:

**Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Site supervisor:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Site supervisor email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Submit this completed form with a faculty member's signature as to Deb Day (ded15@pitt.edu) to receive permission to register for LIS 2901 (3 credit) or if registering for a second individual research, for LIS 2902 (3 credits).