

Case study

Embedding *SAGE Research Methods* into the curriculum at the University of Alaska Anchorage



SAGE Research Methods is ideal for teaching interdisciplinary students as it allows for a “pick and mix” approach to creating course materials

“In addition to using [it] in my teaching, I also use SAGE Research Methods myself when writing the methodology section of grant proposals.”

– Diane Hirshberg, Professor of Education Policy, University of Alaska Anchorage

Executive summary

Diane Hirshberg, Professor of Education Policy at University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA), teaches *Honors Seminar: Social Science*, a course required for all Honors College students, coming from a wide range of backgrounds – from Engineering to Finance and Nursing.

This case study shows how The University of Alaska Anchorage has embedded *SAGE Research Methods* into course curriculum and has trained students and faculty to use the platform.

Challenges

The varied background of her students posed challenges: How could she find examples broad enough to represent the interests of her students if she stuck to a single textbook? And for students who would not go on to study social sciences, how could she introduce social science research methods in a way that would resonate with her diverse cohort?

How *SAGE Research Methods Datasets* helped

As *SAGE Research Methods* contains more than 800 books and reference works covering 17 disciplines, Professor Hirshberg can search and browse the site to find the most appropriate chapters or entries to recommend to her students.

Professor Hirshberg uses the Reading List tool in *SAGE Research Methods* to compile her course reading list walks students through how to use the platform to find resources.

“It’s like constructing my own reader”, she says, “and because all of the resources in *SAGE Research Methods* are indexed by method and keyword, finding the most relevant content for your course is quick and easy.”

Professor Hirshberg also uses *SAGE Research Methods* with graduate students and students who are writing up their research projects.

Results and future plans

Students love *SAGE Research Methods* because it’s online, free at the point of use for them and easy to access 24/7 from wherever they are. And by teaching students how to use the platform to find resources, Professor Hirshberg is also teaching them about the importance of using reputable, trusted sources for academic research, a very important skill for today’s students.

To help colleagues learn how to use the tool, Professor Hirshberg co-teaches a session for faculty showing how to embed *SAGE Research Methods* in their courses. In the future, she’s planning to create tutorial videos for students and colleagues to show how it can support a range of student and faculty needs.

The University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) is the state’s largest university, with satellites in Homer, Kodiak, Soldotna, Valdez and Mat-Su. UAA faculty and students live and work in the only Arctic state in the US.

Programs include associate, baccalaureate, masters and doctoral degrees, as well as vocational and professional certificates. UAA served nearly 20,000 students in spring semester 2015.

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