

Adam M. Farmer

Taking on the challenge of completing an academic research paper within a semester is hard; especially when you have never attempted that style of writing. Without adequate resources, this task would have been impossible. Thanks to the availability of McConnell Library, I have been able to conduct my research on the bioethical concerns monetary incentives have on embryo donors.

The first thing I should note is when I write, I require absolute quiet and lots of space. However, living in a house with four stereotypical college guys makes work rather difficult to do at home. Thanks to the silent fifth floor and study rooms, it was possible to focus on my writing without distraction. Nevertheless, it takes a lot more than silence to complete an academic paper.

With the diverse collection of readily available academic journals on site, and the enormous journal databases online, gathering sources was nearly hassle free. Through the use of the online library catalog and the multiple journal search features, locating pertinent articles was easy. InfoTrac and JSTOR became my best friends while doing preliminary research. For example, a substantial portion of my sources came from the *American Journal of Bioethics* and *The Hastings Center Report*; both of which were available online or in the stacks. However due to the specific nature of my chosen study, even these excellent resources could not provide access to all the information I required.

McConnell Library offers a simple solution to this; the InterLibrary Loan system. This tool became essential as I progressed into my research. The ability to receive virtually any article electronically was a great advantage. This most certainly saved me time and money that would have to be spent to acquire the sources through other means. An imperative supporting article to my paper, located in a journal called *Fertility and Sterility*, was acquired using this system. From a combination of all the academic articles I gathered through the various systems, the writing of a complete and justified paper was made possible.

Though some people may not consider this a “tool” or “resource” of the library, I must give substantial credit to Stacks Coffee Shop located in the lobby of the McConnell Library. Since a good majority of my work was done in the morning, and believe me I’m not a morning person, coffee was an essential part of my research method. I think this was apparent when all the employees began calling me by name and knew exactly what “the usual” meant. Thanks to all of them, they made the time I spent in the library much better.

Overall, I probably completed 98% of my research and writing within the walls of McConnell Library. I even have certain spots where I’ve become accustomed to doing my work. Through the use of the immense resources available, I have been able to create a paper of which I am most certainly proud, and the techniques learned in the process will surely benefit me in my future academic endeavors.