Every student in Yale College has a Personal Librarian, who can help with academic work involving the collections of the Yale University Library. Because YUL is, for nearly all our students, much larger than any school or public library they may have used previously, it can be an overwhelming, even intimidating place, leading many students to fall back on the research habits they developed in high school (Google, Wikipedia …). The Personal Librarian’s job is to help students become comfortable using YUL, to help them meet college-level expectations for research and, we hope, produce stronger work.

It may help advisers to think of a Personal Librarian as a complement to the Residential College Writing Tutor. Where the Writing Tutor helps with thesis development, structure, and argument for a research paper, the Personal Librarian helps with identifying sources and/or evidence, in whatever form this might take: peer-reviewed articles, archival and special collections materials, primary and secondary sources, data sets, maps, etc. We also help with preparing and organizing bibliographies. Students are encouraged to schedule meetings with their Personal Librarian, the earlier in the semester the better.

An adviser can look up the name of a student’s Personal Librarian on the Library’s website, at the link you have below. I would be happy to answer anyone’s questions about the program.

Emily J. Horning
Director of Undergraduate Programs
Yale University Library
Students: Schedule a meeting with me at http://emilyhorning.youcanbook.me/emily.horning@yale.edu