



HARRIED JAVIER THE SPORADIC USER

- ◆ 20 years old
- ◆ Undergraduate Architecture major
- ◆ From Valencia, Spain
- ◆ Lives on campus

“I appreciate elegant, useful design. When I use something that isn’t constructed well, I get frustrated and lose interest.”

About Javier:

Javier doesn’t understand much about the library or how to use its resources. Not because he’s not a serious student, but because he is. The architecture program at IIT is very rigorous. Second-year “archies” are scheduled for twelve **studio hours** per week, but Javier is spends much more time there working on his projects. He also has three other classes on his schedule.

His Research Habits:

Javier uses the library for **precedent research**. This involves analyzing a particular building for its unique structural and design elements. His professors stress using the **Avery index**, but Javier doesn’t understand how **filtering** can give him the specific elevations, details, and plans he needs. He usually turns to Wikipedia and other external sites to complete his research.

Javier also uses library materials for his other assignments, such as writing a paper for a Sociology class. He has trouble finding his way around the website: there are too many links on the page, and some of the terminology is **confusing**. What’s the difference between searching for articles and searching for journals? Aren’t they the same thing? He has a hard time finding full-text items, so he uses the **catalog** to just look up books instead. The books he finds are mostly out of date, but these are for minor assignments so he isn’t bothered.

His Suggestion:

As an architecture student, Javier appreciates good design and thinks the website could benefit from removing a lot of **extraneous material**.

We Want Javier To:

- ◆ Create a library account
- ◆ Use the IIT catalog
- ◆ Understand the difference between the IIT and I-Share catalogs
- ◆ Use Research guides to find library resources
- ◆ Learn basic database concepts, such as filtering
- ◆ Reserve a study room

Resolute Rebecca The Power User

- **Master's Degree Student: Molecular Biochemistry and Biophysics**
- **27 years old**
- **From Terra Haute, IN**
- **Lives in Bridgeport**

About Rebecca:

Rebecca wants to heal people. Not by seeing patients as a physician, but by developing treatments that attack diseases at the cellular level. Her fascination with the natural world began in childhood; she once used to use a plastic magnifying glass to examine insects in her backyard but has now graduated to an electron microscope. Rebecca's Master's thesis involves examining the effects that differing levels of the dystrophin gene have on a cell's cytoskeleton. The work she's doing now might help develop a treatment for muscular dystrophy in the future.

How She Works:

Rebecca wants to be sure that she's getting the best, most recent articles related to her topic, but she still uses **basic keywords** in her searches. She'll perform a search to find a list of relevant articles, then use the articles' **bibliographies** to find additional citations. She likes the simple interface of **Google Scholar**, and will often start a search there, then look for specific titles in the library's citation search page. Because she's so busy, Rebecca is a fan of anything that helps make her life easier and more productive. She stores most of her notes in Evernote because she loves the **synchronization** between her phone and computer; if she comes up with an idea about her project while running an errand, she can record it **in her phone** for later use.

What She Needs from the Library:

Rebecca uses the library site to collect data for her thesis, primarily using the **Web of Science** and **SciTech** databases. Her advisor recommended that she review other **IIT theses** on her topic, and she does that when she has time while on campus. She has used **citation management tools** in the past, but feels that there is a lot more that she could learn. Rebecca would also benefit from instruction about how to set **database filters**, use subject headings and create email alerts for her topic. And as knowledgeable as she is about the library's research tools, Rebecca doesn't know about how to **optimize Google Scholar** to help connect her results to IIT's databases.



“My research is important to me. I want to make sure I'm using the library's materials effectively.”

We want Rebecca to:

- ✓ Know what databases the library subscribes to
- ✓ Optimize Google Scholar
- ✓ Learn techniques like filtering, subject searching, and alerts
- ✓ Use the SFX link resolver
- ✓ Use MyILL
- ✓ Use citation software
- ✓ Submit her thesis to the IIT repository