

Getting Started with AOL Instant Messenger™

AOL Instant Messenger is a popular real time chat program. It's easy to use and free. All you need to get started is an email address. If you don't have an email address you can get a free account from Yahoo or MSN.

First you need to sign up for a Screen Name

(if you already have a Screen Name skip to the second page).

1. Visit <http://my.screenname.aol.com>
2. On the right side of the screen you will see "Need an account?", Click on "**Create one now.**"

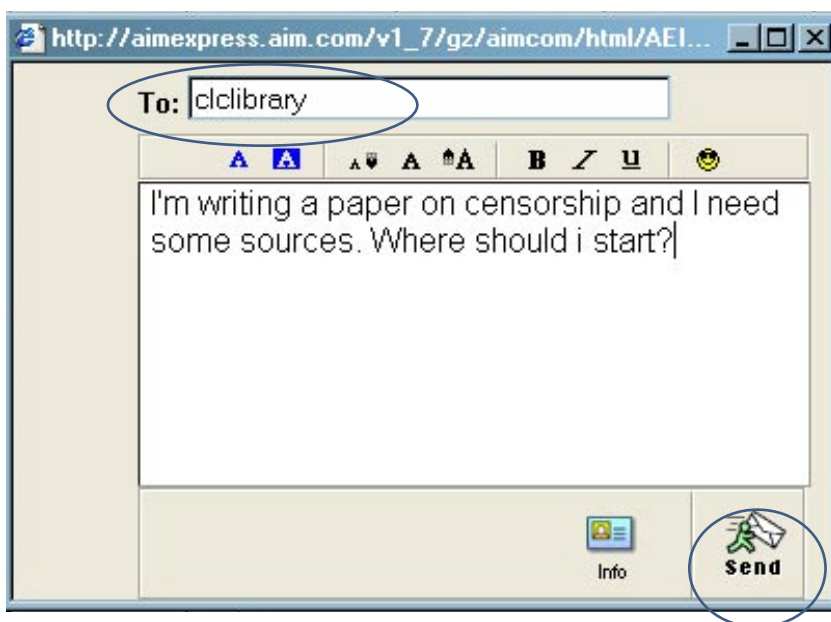


3. **Fill out the form** with a desired screen name (AOL will help you with this part if the one you like is already in use), and make up a password. You will also need to enter a valid email address which AOL will use to activate your screen name. **When you have completed the form click on the "Submit" button.**
4. If your screen name is approved click the "**Continue**" button. Otherwise, choose a new screen name or let AOL help you.
5. Go to your email account and open the message from "Screen Name Service". Click on the link in the message that says "Yes, I made this request and want to register with AOL Screen Name Service"
6. Enter your password in the "Confirm Password" box and click the "**Submit**" button.
7. You will receive an account confirmation message. Click the "**Continue**" button.
8. Close the browser window.

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Accessing AOL Instant Messenger from any computer with AIM Express

1. Visit <http://aimexpress.aim.com>
2. Turn off your popup blocking software or add aimexpress.aim.com to the allowed sites list.
3. Click on the “**Launch Aim Express**” button.
4. Enter your Screen Name and password and click the “**Sign On**” button.
5. AOL Instant Messenger software will open.
6. Click on “**People**” at the top of the window and choose “**Send IM**”
7. Type “**clclibrary**” in the To: box and your message in the larger second box. When you are finished click on the “**Send**” button.



8. If a librarian is available to chat they will reply to your message.

Visit the Library web site at <http://yyz.clillinois.edu/library> or call the Reference desk at 847-543-2071 for more information.