

Information Literacy Assignment: Keeping a Research Blog

Task:

1. Keep an ongoing online record of the library and online research you do for your research project by posting a minimum of one entry per week. Each entry should be a minimum of 250 words, not including source citation.
2. Use blog-journal format.
3. Include the sources or databases consulted, and keywords or subject headings searched in your entries.
4. In your blog, list the sources you find that will be most useful for your research paper or project.
5. Visit classmates' blogs and post comments, questions, and other notations that can help them in their research.

Purpose:

1. Provides you an opportunity to practice writing.
2. Provides an introduction to how information is organized, and orients students to NE's J. Ardis Bell Library.
3. Encourages you to think critically about evaluating quality of resources.
4. Provides practice using a bibliographic citation style.
5. To complete this assignment, you should review the following information:
 1. [Constructing a Search Statement](#)
 2. [Library Research Guides](#)
 3. [Databases versus Internet](#) (Google, Google Scholar, etc.)
 4. [Scholarly Journals](#)
 5. [Citing Sources](#)

Research Blog Guidelines

Your blog will be the place to write down how you did the research for your topic and your thoughts and reflections on both your topic and research process. Your research blog guidelines can give you structure for recording, writing about, and reflecting on information you discover in your research process. However, these guidelines only address the basics. You may include other resource strategies that you'll use. See the subsection below, Writing in Your Research Blog, for more information on what to actually include in your blog.

1. List your topic and keywords or concepts that describe your topic.
2. Browse through reference books at NE campus library on your topic. (*March 21 is a great time to do this since you will physically be at the J. Ardis Bell Library.*)
 1. Search through the Library Catalogue to find reference works. Remember, reference books might include specialized subject encyclopædias or dictionaries, such as the *Twayne's Authors Series* and *Encyclopedia of Popular Music*.
 2. Is there a specific source that provides a helpful overview and background on your topic? If so, blog about it and discuss why and how it will be useful for your research.
3. Find books in the J. Ardis Bell Library's general collection.

1. Search the Library Catalogue to find relevant books. List all terms, keywords, or subject headings that you use in your searching. Be sure to note the terms or searches that yielded the most results. Blog about this.
2. Find the books on the shelves and select any that you think will be most useful. List the title(s), author(s), and call numbers in your blog. Blog about your search process, including any discoveries you make as you search through the college library's stacks.
4. Find journal articles.
 1. From the library home page, click on "Find Articles (Databases)" link. Choose databases either by subject or individual title.
 2. In your blog, list the terms searched and your search strategy.
 3. List bibliographic information for several articles that you might want to use for your research. Be sure to list the titles of any other databases you use in your searching.
5. Find Internet sources.
 1. Search the web for useful sites. Which search tool(s) did you use (Google, Google Scholar, Yahoo, etc.)?
 2. List your search terms and phrases. Blog about the best web sites in your blog and talk about why they may be useful for your topic.

Adapted from the [University of North Carolina at Asheville's Information Literacy Assignment](#) (c)2009

Writing in your Research Blog

See the following links for more information about how and what to blog about in your research blog.

1. [How to Write a Journal Entry](#) from Bergen Community College
2. [How to Write a Good Research Blog Post](#) from Science of Blogging (Since this blog post focuses on scientific writing, you can—and should—adapt it to fit your literary research needs.)
 - **Note:** While you should follow all hints Dave Munger offers, pay special attention to hint number 7. Don't simply list facts or reflections on your research process; instead, tell a story about a specific stage in your research process.
3. Consider including videos, either created by you or by others, in your research blog. However, don't simply plop in videos—write about them. In what way does the video contribute to your research and your understanding of the topic?
4. See [Research Blogging](#) for sample research blogs. Make sure to check out the topics at the right side of the page to read through different types of research blogging.
5. Thoughts on [Keeping a Research Journal](#) (applicable for research blogs but keep in mind your research blog's public nature)

Helpful Research Management Tools:

1. [Zotero](#) (has apps for mobile researching)
2. [Mendeley](#) (has apps for mobile researching)

Final Note: Take care with this Research Blog, because you can use this as evidence of work conducted when/if you apply for scholarships, fellowships, and [research grants](#). If you don't have an academic résumé, you may wish to consider beginning one and adding the URL of your Research Blog to it.