Information Diary

5 total entries worth 8 points each

Purpose:
The purpose of this assignment is to guide you through the search process, evaluate the usefulness of information sources discovered, and to reflect on the search process as you do it so that you may evaluate and improve your own processes to use in the future. Overall this should develop and refine your searching skills, and allow you to effectively answer your research question.

Task:
Choose a topic to research that is of interest to you, preferably something relevant to your scholarly interests (what you are studying in school). Throughout the course you will complete 5 ‘diary’ entries detailing your experience as you narrow your topic into a research question, and search for and evaluate the information you need to answer that specific question. Each week of the diary will explore a different type of resource and have some additional instructions.

Criteria for Success:

*Explain the relevance of the source to answer the research question*
- How would you use this to answer your research question?
- What did you find useful… or why not?
- Take into account other sources already found/in use. Does it give new info, add something, confirm something?

*Search strategy is appropriate*
- The search system used is appropriate for the desired type of source (OneSearch, Google, Specific Library Databases etc.)
- Tried different search systems to gauge the full extend of information available
- Search terms and keywords are appropriate for finding information on your research question
- You tried new or revised terms either when a search did not work well and/or more information or understand different aspects of the topic/question
- Makes use of search techniques learned in class such as boolean operators, subject headings, citation chaining etc.

*Reflection is thoughtful and honest*
- Admit to failures and considers how to adjust searches and try again
- What did you have trouble with, and how were you able to get past it?
• Did you learn anything new about your topic that led you to try new things? (e.g. some people call it something else, a person involved your didn’t know about etc.)
• Where you frustrated? Excited when you had a breakthrough? Unsure what to do?
• Discuss your successes, why it worked and how these techniques might be used in future

_Citations are in correct APA or MLA style_

• Correctly identifies the identifying information of the source (e.g. author, title, journal name, date etc.)
• Correctly identifies the type of source (e.g. article, book, website) and applies the corresponding format within APA or MLA
• Components are in the correct order
• Uses correct punctuation, capitalization, italics, and symbols.