

Name _____

Library Exercise - due next week
(15 points)

Your research topic _____

The assignment includes:

Using the information you learned in the library session, you have to find 5 sources related to your topic to start your preliminary research.

- ⇒ One source must be from the **Reference Books** in the library (see list provided by Ms. Winch).
- ⇒ One source must be obtained by using the **Library Catalog - PILOT** (if you cannot find information in this database, please see your Instructor or a Librarian as soon as possible).
- ⇒ One must be obtained by using **EBSCOhost**.
- ⇒ One must be obtained by using **NEWSBANK**.
- ⇒ One must be obtained by using an appropriate search engine on the **World Wide Web**.

These must be listed on a separate sheet of paper (staple to this assignment) using the correct citation format as indicated at:

<http://www.lhup.edu/shunter/PoB%20I/Appendix%20D%20-%20Literature%20Cited%20-%202007.pdf>

A: FINDING BOOKS FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Finding **REFERENCE BOOKS** in Stevenson Library.

- ⇒ You will be working in the Reference Collection (books) is located in Stevenson Library.
- ⇒ Choose at least 3 of the books listed on the sheet provided to you that you think might have your topic in it. Logically consider your topic and appropriate sources (Ask your instructor or the librarian if you need help determining appropriate sources).
- ⇒ For each one that you consulted, state what kind of information it contains and evaluate why or why not it was helpful to you in providing information about your topic (relevant).
- ⇒ Really evaluate the source and the information and determine whether it is a source you can use.

Table 1: Evaluating **REFERENCE BOOKS** to determine relevant background information related to your topic.

Book Title & volume or issue	Kind of information it contains	Explain WHY this information was or was not useful to you in understanding more about your topic (relevant). Really evaluate the source and information.
E.g., Is there life on Mars?	Age of Mars, atmospheric conditions, fossil evidence	Helpful and relevant because it provided what is already known about Mars, comparisons to Earth and statistical information about Mars.

PLACE AN ASTERISK NEXT TO THE SOURCE THAT PROVIDED THE MOST RELEVANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR TOPIC.

BEFORE YOU GO ON, CHECK WITH YOUR INSTRUCTOR THAT YOU ARE ON THE RIGHT TRACK!

2. Finding CIRCULATING BOOKS in Stevenson Library using Library’s Online Catalog (formerly PILOT).

- ⇒ List the keywords you used in the Online Catalog to try to find background information.
- ⇒ NOTE: You may have to use broader or more general terms if you cannot find books specifically on your topic. For example, a Title search for “*Carpal Tunnel Syndrome*” in the Online Catalog results in no books, but if you try more general terms such as “*Joint and Nerve Disorders*” using Boolean Ranked Search you get results, some of which appear to be related to this topic. So be creative in choosing appropriate keywords and combining them in logical ways to obtain the information you want.
- ⇒ Describe the search strategy you used - using broad keywords, combining more specific keywords, using Boolean operators, etc.
- ⇒ Describe what was successful (i.e. found relevant book) or unsuccessful (did not find book). If unsuccessful, describe what you did next.
- ⇒ Thoroughly analyze the best way to find relevant books in the Online Catalog.

Table 2: Search strategy and results using the Library’s Online Catalog (PILOT) for CIRCULATING BOOKS

What Keywords did you use and how did you combine them?	Results (# of book titles)	Explain WHY this information was or was not useful to you in understanding more about your topic. Really evaluate the source and information. Then, based on these results, explain what you did next.

PLACE AN ASTERIX NEXT TO THE SOURCE THAT PROVIDED THE MOST RELEVANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR TOPIC.

B: FINDING CURRENT PUBLISHED RESOURCES

1. Using **EBSCOHOST**, to find **articles** on your topic.

⇒ There are a variety of general and discipline-specific databases that are available in **EBSCOHOST**.

⇒ You must look at the descriptions of the databases to understand the emphasis of each.

⇒ You must make a logical decision about **WHICH** data base(s) to select that is **MOST** relevant to your topic.

List 3 specific **EBSCOHOST** database(s) you might use (You may NOT choose Newspaper Source for this assignment) based on the description of those data bases. Briefly describe **WHY** you think it might be relevant to your topic.

Data base(s) you might use for this assignment.

Brief description of why you think this might be relevant or contain information about your topic.

⇒ List the keywords you used in each database if you used more than one.

⇒ Describe the search strategy you used - using broad keywords, combining more specific keywords, using Boolean operators, etc.

⇒ Record the number of “hits” you obtained on your topic.

⇒ Describe what was successful (i.e. found relevant articles) or unsuccessful (did not find relevant articles). ⇒ If unsuccessful, describe what you did next.

⇒ Thorough analyze the best way to find relevant articles in this data base.

Table 3: Search strategy and results using **EBSCOHOST** for articles.

Database:	What Keywords did you use and how did you combine them?	Results (# of hits, or titles retrieved)	Explain WHY this information was or was not useful to you in understanding more about your topic. Really evaluate the source and information. Then, based on these results, explain what you did next.
E.g., Academic Search Complete	Bird evolution	167	Relevant, but too broad. I need to use Darwin’s Finches to narrow it.

PLACE AN ASTERIX NEXT TO THE SOURCE THAT PROVIDED THE MOST RELEVANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR TOPIC.

2. Using NEWSBANK, to find newspaper articles, news sources and newswire releases on your topic. These are the most current, or immediate, sources on your topic.

- ⇒ List the keywords you used
- ⇒ Describe the search strategy you used - using broad keywords, combining more specific keywords, using Boolean operators, etc.
- ⇒ Record the number of “hits” you obtained on your topic.
- ⇒ Describe what was successful (i.e. found relevant articles) or unsuccessful (did not find relevant articles). ⇒ If unsuccessful, describe what you did next.
- ⇒ Thoroughly analyze the best way to find relevant articles in this data base.

Table 4: Search strategy and results using **NEWSBANK** for newspaper articles, news sources and newswire releases on your topic.

What Keywords did you use and how did you combine them?	Results (# of hits, or titles retrieved)	Explain WHY this information was or was not useful to you in understanding more about your topic. Really evaluate the source and information. Then, based on these results, explain what you did next.

PLACE AN ASTERIX NEXT TO THE SOURCE THAT PROVIDED THE MOST RELEVANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR TOPIC.

C: FINDING WORLD WIDE WEB (WWW) RESOURCES

1. Using an appropriate search engine on the **WORLD WIDE WEB** to find information related to your topic.

⇒ State the search engine you used

List 3 search engines you might use to search for information about your topic. Briefly describe WHY you think it might be relevant to your topic.

Search engines you might use for this assignment.

Brief description of why you think this might be relevant or contain information about your topic.

⇒ Describe the search strategy you used - using broad keywords, combining more specific keywords, using appropriate operators, etc.

⇒ Record the number of "hits" you obtained on your topic.

⇒ Describe what was successful (i.e. found relevant material) or unsuccessful (did not find relevant material).

⇒ If unsuccessful, describe what you did next.

⇒ Thoroughly analyze the best way to find relevant material in this data base.

Table 5: Search strategy and results using the **WORLD WIDE WEB (WWW)** for resources.

Search engine used:	What Keywords did you use and how did you combine them?	Results (# of hits, or titles retrieved)	Explain WHY this information was or was not useful to you in understanding more about your topic. Really evaluate the source and information. Then, based on these results, explain what you did next.

PLACE AN ASTERIX NEXT TO THE SOURCE THAT PROVIDED THE MOST RELEVANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR TOPIC.

Assignment:

- ⇒ Compile the 5 sources you identified from this assignment into a single list arranged by alphabetical order according to the author's last name.
- ⇒ The list must be typed, single-spaced within the citation, one double space between citations.
- ⇒ The second and subsequent lines of the citation must be indented 5 spaces (see this link)
<http://www.lhup.edu/shunter/PoB%20I/Appendix%20D%20-%20Literature%20Cited%20-%202007.pdf>
- ⇒ Based on your review of the sources you identified in this assignment, make a general statement of the approach you might take, or the preliminary questions you might answer, related to your topic.
- ⇒ Type all this on a page and then attach it to this library assignment before turning it into your instructor.

Failure to follow these directions will adversely affect your grade on this assignment.

You need to turn in these 3 items next week for this assignment to be complete.

1. This COMPLETED library exercise _____
2. A sheet attached with the 5 sources listed in alphabetical order in the correct format
Make sure you name and Lab section is on this page _____
3. A general statement of how you might approach the topic. _____