

Title of Assignment

Research Skills Assignment

Weight: 5 %

Purpose

Being able to find, assess, and use credible information is important for both students and working professionals. These skills will allow you to be an efficient researcher and successful lifelong learner. This assignment will familiarize you with the SAIT Library Search and will help you identify credible sources of information.

Assignment Details

- Use the attached worksheet to complete this assignment
- When finding a source, use search terms related to your report topic for this course.
- This assignment should be completed individually.

Instructions

1. Determine your research topic.
2. Choose your search terms.
3. Using search terms relevant to your research topic, use the [SAIT Library Search](#) box to look for relevant sources for your report. After reviewing your search results, select one resource and answer the questions on the following page. **Failure to provide a library source may result in a zero on the assignment.**
4. Submit the completed assignment to [Brightspace](#) by the posted deadline.

Name:		Course and Section e.g. COMN-220-N	
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What topic are you researching? State your topic in a complete sentence or question format.

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1. What search string did you enter in the Library Search? Only list the search string used to find the source you chose.

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2. Create a reference list entry for the source.

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3. Use the [RADAR](#) criteria to evaluate the source.

Relevance	
Authority	
Date	
Appearance	
Reason	

4. Would you use this source in your report? In **2-3 sentences**, justify your decision using your findings from **two or more RADAR criteria**.

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Research Skills Assignment Rubric

	0 points	1 point	2 points	3 points	4 points
1. Search String	No search string is provided OR search string uses only natural language instead of keywords.	Search string is irrelevant to the research topic OR unclear what search string was used to locate the source provided.	Search string is relevant to the research topic, but search string is too narrow or broad OR search string would have benefited from using search symbols.	Search string is relevant to the topic listed and contains an appropriate number of keywords, but has one or more mistakes in syntax/application of search symbols.	Search string is relevant to the topic listed and contains an appropriate number of keywords and has little to no mistakes in syntax/application of search symbols.
2. Citation	No answer/citation provided OR used wrong citation style.	Correct citation style applied with multiple errors AND/OR citation is missing key information.	Correct citation style applied with minimal errors.		
3a. Relevance	No answer provided OR answer is incorrect.	Relevance to topic is identified but not clearly connected to topic or information need.	Relevance to topic is identified and clearly connected to topic or information need.		
3b. Authority	No answer provided OR answer is incorrect.	Author, publication, and/or publisher is identified.	Details of credibility (i.e. education/experience/reputation) are discussed.		
3c. Date	No answer provided OR answer is incorrect.	Date of publication or last update is listed.	Currency of the source in relation to the topic is acknowledged.		
3d. Appearance	No answer provided OR answer is incorrect.	One significant aspect of appearance is identified (source type, references, data/graphs, etc.).	Two or more significant aspects of appearance are identified.		

3e. Reason	No answer provided OR answer is incorrect.	Reason for publication is identified but answer is too general AND/OR not explained.	Specific reason for publication is clearly identified and explained.		
4. Would you use this source?	No answer provided.	Answer provided but unclear if source would be a good fit for report.	Answer identifies if source would be a good fit for report, but is vague AND/OR incorporates less than 2 RADAR criteria AND answer is too brief.	Answer clearly identifies if source would be a good fit for report, but incorporates less than 2 RADAR criteria OR answer is too brief.	Answer clearly identifies if the source would be a good fit for report using at least 2 RADAR criteria. Answer is presented in at least 2-3 complete sentences.