

LS 507-901: Information Sources & Services

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Assignments

Assignment	Document Name (for submission)	Group/Individual/Hybrid	Due Date	Points
Participation		Individual	ongoing	10
Acclimation Assignment	lastname_acclimation_507	Individual	2/5	15
Group Agreement	groupname_agreement_507	Group	1/29	5
Question Set 1	groupname_qset1_507 lastname_supp_qset1_507	Hybrid	3/5	15 (10 pts.-group; 5 pts.-individual)
Question Set 2	groupname_qset2_507 lastname_supp_qset2_507	Hybrid	4/9	15 (10 pts.-group; 5 pts.-individual)
Reference Collection	groupname_final_507 lastname_rationale_507	Hybrid	5/3	20 (10 pts.-group, 10 pts.-individual)
Final Exam	Lastname_exam_507	Individual	5/3	20
TOTAL				100

Preparation:

Assignments should:

- Be word processed
- Include name, course number
- Be named as indicated in the assignment description
- Submitted to eLearning dropbox

ACCLIMATION EXERCISE (Two components, 15 pts.)

DOCUMENT NAME: lastname_acclimation_507

Selection of Library/ies for Reference Assignments/Justification

Throughout the semester, you will be consulting reference materials in a variety of formats. While we will discuss and consult online resources (both free and fee-based) you will need to access some materials in print.

To that end, you will need to identify a library or group of libraries in your area that will support your needs for this class. Which libraries will you use? Why?

Consult the lists of resources in our course textbooks, local libraries' OPACS, and other resources that might describe libraries in your area in making your decision. Write a brief description of the libraries you've identified and a justification for your decision.

Reference Interview:

During the library selection process, visit a library and ask a question at the reference desk. Make this a question on a topic that you actually know about or that is meaningful to you. Select a topic that you are comfortable sharing in your report.

If you have a strong preference for a particular area of librarianship (e.g., adult reference, academic information services, services for children or young adults, medical or law librarianship, IT support, etc.), you may use this as an opportunity to observe in that type of reference setting. Otherwise, a "generic" public or academic library setting is perfectly acceptable.

Let the librarian lead you through the reference interview and answer as you think a patron needing this information would respond. Report on the following the librarian's interview techniques and quality of the transaction, paying special attention to the following:

Observe the librarian's verbal and nonverbal behaviors. During the interaction with the librarian, pay careful attention to the reference interaction between you.

- The questions asked by the librarian
- Questions the librarian didn't ask (but should have)
- Your comfort with the interaction
- The librarian's treatment of other users
- The librarian's treatment of colleagues/coworkers
- Evidence of policies for providing reference assistance, including signage
- The extent to which your question was answered

Note any other impressions (librarian was friendly/harried, user was angry/polite). Was your question answered? Were you satisfied? Why or why not? What could have been done differently?

Rewrite your notes into an organized essay about your observations. Do not identify the name of the library nor librarians in your paper. Complete all readings for both classes on the reference interaction before you begin to write this paper. Throughout the essay, you are required to tie your observations in with the assigned readings, citing any papers referred to in APA, MLA, or Chicago style. Attach a bibliography of sources cited.

Group Agreement (5 pts.) DOCUMENT NAME: groupname_agreement_507:

Library work in general, and reference work in particular are collaborative enterprises. Much of the work you complete this semester will be done as part of a group. There are several reasons for this: first, to replicate the collaborative environment in which you are likely to find yourself as an information professional; second, to maximize peer learning opportunities, and third, to maximize the quality of your work through blending individual group members' strengths.

During the week of January 22 there will be no class meeting. Take this time to utilize the resources provided in our eLearning space to formulate your team agreements.

Question Sets (2, 15 pts. ea.: 10 pts.-group; 5 pts.-individual)

DOCUMENT NAME: groupname_qsetx_507

Supplemental material: lastname_supp_qsetx_507:

You will be given three question sets during the course of the semester. While you'll be expected to answer the questions, the more important consideration in completing these assignments is an explanation of your process in pursuing the question's answer.

Each of you will work on this assignment individually, then re-convene with your group to review and discuss your work. Your final submission of the assignment will be as a group. DO NOT divide work on the assignment between group members! Each of you should come to the group discussion with a working draft of the completed assignment.

10/15 points of this assignment will be based on your final group submission, 5/15 points will be individual and based on submitted notes and drafts and self- and group-evaluation of performance.

FINAL PROJECT (group submission and presentation, 10 pts.; individual effort, 10 pts.):

DOCUMENT NAME: groupname_final_507; lastname_rationale_507

Reference Collection

Your group (to which you will be assigned based on interests and other factors) will develop a reference collection for a specific type of library. Records for your collection should be assembled in RefWorks with attachments, when possible. Your group will make a presentation of your collection to the class.

Each group member should be responsible for constructing a discrete portion of the collection, and will need to develop a rationale for the selection of those resources. The collection and presentation will receive a group grade; the individual grade will be based upon the individual rationale as well as self- and group-evaluations of individual performance.