**Assignment # 2 – Literature Review Search**

The purpose of this assignment is to develop the skills of literature search, retrieval and review. This assignment and Assignment #3 will be closely linked. This assignment will include the “paper trail” providing the actual details of your search for relevant literature, and Assignment #3 will be the final document that summarizes the findings of your review of precedent literature in scholarly prose, fully APA 6 format compliant. Please notice that this assignment follows the search strategy suggested by Bill Badke. (Professor Badke’s on-line research course is accessible at <http://acts.twu.ca/Library/research500.htm>.)

**Literature Review Search Component Steps**

1. Write your problem statement in at most a few concise sentences (or question format).
2. Identify the searchable keywords and domains of social science that arise from your problem statement.
3. Conduct a TWU/Other *library catalogue* search for books and e-books. Don’t forget that a wide variety of e-books are available through EbscoHost.
	1. Conduct a search of key words.
	2. Identify five books that relate to your question (some of these could be your course books).
	3. Track your library catalogue search in a chart such as *Table 1*.
	4. Add these books to your reference list (APA 6 formatting).
4. Academic Database Search Preparation**.** See TWU Library for recommended databases

at <http://www.twu.ca/library/perindex.html> (see Leadership; also databases recommended based on your stream)

* 1. Identify search terms and databases
	2. Conduct a search in two[[1]](#footnote-1) databases. For each search:
		+ - Track your search in a chart such as *Table 2* that makes visible the steps of your literature search strategy and indicates the results of these searches.
			- Try different keyword and subject heading searches.
	3. Review abstracts to identify 15 articles of potential relevance to your question.
		+ - Determine inclusion and exclusion criteria to help you choose these 15 articles. For the purposes of this assignment, an inclusion criterion may be that the article is available in full text/pdf (you can request the article through interlibrary loan for the major project proposal itself.)
			- Record this activity in *Table 2*. You note in Table 2 why this article attracts your attention.
	4. Add these 15 articles to your reference list (APA 6 formatting).
1. Conduct an *internet search* using a search engine such as *Google* or *Google Scholar* to identify three reputable *websites/web documents* that contain information relevant to your topic. You are looking for websites that will provide such things as unpublished papers, blogs, relevant personal or institutional or commercial websites, and the like. Record the following information in *Table 3*:
	1. The actual searches you did, in the form you used (e.g. leadership and education). List each search on a separate line. Note: Avoid just inputting one word, but rather try some word combinations. Most search engines use Boolean logic.
	2. The Internet addresses (URL’s) for three good *websites/web documents* that had good quality as well as relevant information for your research question. Focus on quality and how relevant these sites are to the kind of issue your research question is addressing.
	3. For each site, briefly summarize what the content is and seek to evaluate its credibility (e.g. Who produced it? What biases do you see? Are there references to other literature?).
	4. Add the references produced from this search to your References list if you include them in your 15 articles above. Be sure your Table 3 includes the URL’s for three good websites/documents.
2. In several appropriately cited paragraphs each, do the following: (a) present a working knowledge summary of your topic (the basic facts required to make someone familiar with the topic to a limited extent) based on what you have discovered about the topic from your initial investigations of literature and (b) what the major issues and questions are that are being asked in the field. Finally, (c) present a brief statement outlining your personal professional interest in this topic. In essence, you are presenting a *working knowledge summary* of your topic (the basic facts required to make someone familiar with the topic to a limited extent) *based on what you have discovered about the topic from your own experiences and from the reference sources*. You will want to *superficially* describe the relevant issues subsumed in your problem statement, including the urgency, the controversies, and anything else that will convince your reader that your problem statement is worthwhile pursuing. Again, be sure to cite appropriately.
3. Be sure to include an exhaustive reference list of the sources you have used, formatted to APA 6 format requirements. Also, be sure the entire document is APA6 format compliant. This assignment will provide the basis for Assignment #3: Formal Literature Review.
1. For these purposes, you may link databases to search simultaneously. For example, if you search Academic Search Premier, you may link a number of other databases (such as Business Source Complete) such that your search of Academic Search Premier searches all the other linked databases in the same search. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)