COMM 101 Library Exercise

Directions

1. This assignment is due in class on ________(date) with a librarian’s signature. Librarians are available for consultation during reference hours only. Schedule: library.monmouthcollege.edu/home/hours

   Please do not wait until the hour before class!

2. The databases used in this assignment can be found on the Monmouth College Library homepage: library.monmouthcollege.edu

   CQ Researcher, Access World News, Academic Search Complete, Statista

3. Be sure to staple the FIRST PAGE or CITATION of the items you find for exercises 4,5,6 and 7 to this worksheet (4 printouts total).

   2: CQ: Researcher: Find Background Information

1. Locate the database CQ Researcher on the Library homepage (directions above) and conduct a search.

2. Browse list of results. Notice the TOPICS under each result. Write down topics that interest you. Example: I searched “small business” and topic words related are “economic development” and “rural economy”.

3. Open a report of interest and answer the following questions:

   - Report title: ________________________________________________________
   - How might the first three sections of this report be helpful to you?

4. What do the footnotes reveal? e.g. ☛
3: Brainstorm Your Research Topic

Think about the information you located in the CQ Researcher database. Did it help you think of multiple ways to explore your topic? Consider the synonyms you found and brainstorm your topic using the example below.

Example topic: What are current issues surrounding the 2015 Supreme Court legalization of same-sex marriage in the US?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>supreme court OR legal</th>
<th>AND</th>
<th>gay OR same-sex</th>
<th>AND</th>
<th>marriage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Describe YOUR topic in a phrase or question:

Write out a YOUR keywords, and any synonyms, similar to the example above. You may have more or fewer words than in the example, and that’s OK!
4: Access World News: Find Newspaper Articles

1. Locate the database *Access World News* on the Library homepage (directions on page 1).

2. Using your keywords above, try several different searches to locate *ONE LOCAL or REGIONAL newspaper article* on your topic. Remember: you can limit a search to a state, region, and a specific newspaper. Try different types of searches!

3. Once you have a successful search, WRITE in the search terms you used below. If you tried searching specific fields, write those, too.

4. Choose an interesting and relevant article from your search, print a copy, and complete the information below.

   Article Title / Headline: _________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

   Author / Byline: ____________________________________________________

   Source (Name of Publication): ________________________________________

   Date of Publication: _________________    Page Number (if any): _______________
5: Academic Search Complete Find Magazine and Journal Articles

1. Locate the database Academic Search Complete on the Library homepage (directions on page 1).

2. Conduct several searches. Record the keywords/phrases you searched below. (Hint: Do more than one search!)

   (search #1):

   (search #2):

   (search #3):

3. Choose ONE interesting and relevant article from your search, print a copy, and complete the information below.

   Article Title / Headline: ____________________________________________________________

   Author / Editors: _________________________________________________________________

   Source (Name of Publication): ____________________________________________________

   Volume / Issue / Date: __________________________________________________________________

4. List ONE useful Subject Term found in your article.

5. Click that Subject Term and it will generate a new search. How many articles have the Subject Term you chose? __________

6. Is the article you found from a SCHOLARLY PEER-REVIEWED or NON-SCHOLARLY source?

   Scholarly = academic, peer-reviewed
   Non-Scholarly = newspaper, magazine, trade periodical

7. Name TWO clues that help you determine #6 above:

   Did you print the first page (or database citation) of the article you found?
6: Statista: Find Statistical Information

1. Locate the database Statista on the Library homepage (see directions on page 1).

2. What words and phrases did you search? (Hint: Do more than one search!)
   (search #1):
   (search #2):
   (search #3):

3. Choose ONE relevant statistic from your search, print a copy, and complete the information below.
   Title of the chart (hint: found above the chart):

   In your own words describe what the chart is measuring.

   The SOURCE box can be found on the right side of most Statista charts. Statista is NOT the creator of this information, it simply provides access.

   • “SOURCE” lists the entity that provided the survey to Statista (agency, report, etc)
   • “SURVEY BY” lists the entity that originally gathered the data
   • Remember: when you cite this information, cite the original SOURCE not Statista.

   Source: ________________________________

   Survey by: ________________________________

   Did you print the first page (or database citation) of the article you found?
7: Google

1. Look back on the information you found on the prior databases (Statista, Academic Search Complete, Access World News, and CQ Researcher). Choose ONE piece of information you located in that database that you would like to know more about.

2. In a few sentences, please DESCRIBE the piece of information you chose to investigate and WHY you chose to investigate it.

   For example: My news article quoted a statistics from NCAA Sports Science Institute. I want to find what this center does and what information they provide.

3. Conduct a Google search for this piece of information, print one page from the website you found, and complete the information below.

   • Web Address (URL):
   • Notice the domain (.edu .gov . com). Why is it useful to notice this?
   • Title / Headline of Webpage:
   • Author / Publisher / Parent Organization (Who is responsible for this web content?):

   Do you think this website is reliable? YES or NO Give three reasons below. Think about: What authority does the website have? Are they the original source of this information? Are there citations or references to more information? Is there a bias in the writing? Can you verify the information somewhere else? Is the information current?

   A.
   
   B.
   
   C.

Did you print the first page of the webpage you found?