

CMSI 620T

DATABASE SYSTEMS GRADUATE TUTORIAL

Fall 2022

Assignment 0912

Initial Research Survey

We have to start somewhere, and oddly enough it's somewhere in the middle—we'll read a report written by database scholars about what they feel should be studied, then we'll look back and forward.

Read the latest Seattle report on database research (published on August 2022)

Published in *Communications of the ACM* 65(8) just this past August, 2022, a copy of this article can be found in the Content section of the course's Brightspace site. Don't be discouraged if it feels over your head—some of it might be, but I don't think all of it will. Allow yourself to read parts of the article as much as you need.

Take note of what you find interesting; what you know nothing about; what you don't care about. Do some additional searches on the web and the library for related work, whether for background or for pushing the envelope, and scan what you find. Then, organize and express your thoughts in a document with the following outline...

Write up your findings

Document your thoughts on the Seattle report as well as your follow-up exploration of the field as indicated here. Make reference to and cite sources in the text, supplying a proper bibliography at the end. Try to adopt some tools to minimize busy work (see the next section). If you're unsure how to do this, look at the very papers that you read—you can learn by example!

Section 1. Three or More Areas of Interest

List at least three (3) database areas from the report that you find interesting, and briefly state why. Cite references beyond the report as applicable. You don't have to fully understand them yet—it's OK to just pick out what draws your attention.

Section 2. Five or More Terms of Interest

Look up terminology or concepts that relate to your stated areas of interest and define at least five (5) of them, providing some commentary on why you chose them. Cite any sources as well.

Section 3. Two or More Persons of Interest

Keep an eye out for people who interest you—the report's authors, the alluded Turing and Systems Software Awardees (look them up), anyone you encounter in the additional sources that you find. Identify them and write a short blurb about at least two (2) of them, indicating their place in the database field and why they caught your eye.

Recommendation: Learn about tools to streamline the scholarly writing process

Although conventional word processors will suffice in writing scholarly work, some tools are specifically designed for this purpose:

- LaTeX has a steep learning curve, but it's worth it and now is a good time to start. Once you learn its syntax, it lets you focus on your content without worrying about formatting. It has an accompanying tool, BibTeX, that makes citations straightforward (again allowing you to focus on your content). LaTeX can either be installed on your machine or used online; for the latter, check out Overleaf—they have a free tier for students
- If that is too much to bite off, at least find a tool that manages your references. LMU's library likes Zotero, but that's not the only one. Mendeley is another, and I'm sure you can find others as well

Submission

Please upload a PDF of your research survey to the designated assignment on Brightspace.

Scoring

Each section is worth 15, 25, and 10 points, respectively, to be given mainly based on following instructions. Feedback will be provided but this will not always affect the points you get. Just do what is asked and you'll be fine.