

# HNRS 298-03, -04, -05

## RESEARCH & EXHIBITION

Spring 2014

### Annotated Bibliography Prep: Search Journal

Week of February 10

#### What to Do and Why

Let's get this straight: what you are *really* starting to do this week is to build your annotated bibliography. But, in order to highlight the process involved in building this, you are asked to create an artifact of the process itself: a *search journal*.

A search journal is a specific version of what, in practice, gets captured as (depending on your discipline and type of inquiry): a lab notebook, a research journal or diary, a sketchbook or portfolio of studies, a binder of annotated clippings or media, a stack of index cards, a dictaphone of notes-to-self, and many more. Practitioners (scholars, creators, entrepreneurs, etc.) use these artifacts to keep track of their thoughts and their work. It acknowledges that we can never hold absolutely everything in our head. It also acknowledges that we have fits and starts; we make mistakes; we proactively find ways to improve.

And, for *padawan* like you :) it is a mechanism to force *awareness* and *reflection* of the process you undertake in searching for relevant information. This process later expands to the entire intellectual or creative endeavor of research.

1. Start searching any and all possible sources for references that are relevant to your area of interest (yes, your advisor is a great "shortcut," but don't rely entirely on them either).
2. Record the results of your search using the format on the right.
3. Gather all "hits"—these will comprise your annotated bibliography.
4. Submit *one* end-to-end record of your search (i.e., from nothing to a collection of relevant work) on the week that this is due.

Note that this week should represent the *beginning* of your search journey, and not the end. Your actual search journey (and journaling!) should continue through the completion of the annotated bibliography on the week of February 24.

#### What to Record

You're new at this, so we will hold your hand for this one. Eventually it is hoped that you grow to appreciate the value of awareness and reflection, and come to your own version of journaling that works best for you:

##### The Search

*First, state the overall search area: topic to search, and words or ideas to use. Then, for each search resource:*

- Type of search resource (*printed, online, human*)
- Name of resource
- Date consulted
- The exact phrases and queries tried (with subsequent modifications), and, for each such query:
  - ▶ Did the search work? (*yes/somewhat/no*) Why or why not?
  - ▶ For searches that worked, how useful were the results? (*useful/not relevant but interesting/not useful at all*)

##### The Results

*For searches whose results you deemed useful, record the actual information sources that you found:*

- Resource(s) that yielded this result
- Type of source (e.g., *reference work, content database, book/chapter/anthology selection, mass media article, academic/scholarly/specialty/trade article, website* [or portion of], *creative work*, etc.)
- Citation information (as applicable): *author(s), title, year, collection/journal/website title, editor(s), publisher + address* (typically for books), *volume + issue + date + pages* (typically for periodicals and journals), *URL + date viewed*, etc.—(think of this as "what I need to know so I don't have to search for it again")
- Initial impression of the result