E-portfolio Link - https://aaronaubeck.github.io/E-port/

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Individual Reflection

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Beginning this module, I entered with little understanding of research projects and literature reviews. Due to my art degree background I expected to be met with new methodologies and techniques to implement in my further work and studies. This was true however I also found myself once again struggling with deadlines and time management. Throughout the remainder of this reflection, I will be applying Rolfe's "What?"/So What? /Now What?" model. (Rolfe et al., 2001)

What?

This course avidly and consistently returned to ethics, insisting on transparent, analytical, and reputable research. The first lessons within the module were on data collection and ethical analysis. It was within this topic that morals and ethics were approached with an understanding that ethics alone cannot be relied upon in the computer science field. Morality will always need to be understood when working with people in mind (Mitchell, 2018).

 In further units I investigated and researched methods and writing styles I had never known about prior to the module. Qualitative analysis had previously been a difficult area of research for myself, by investigating it further and understanding how to implement it to increase the productivity of data gathered I was able to expand my knowledge of research strategies. It is from this that I learnt how useful a literature review can be to a research project. By studying the materials already in existence, you can expand your own knowledge of the subject matter and find areas where further research is required (Saunders, et al, 2012).

So What?

Throughout my time studying I have always struggled to understand how to present my work and findings in a professional and educated manner. It has been a struggle for some time to communicate my ideas and gain feedback that informs me of what is required to meet certain goal posts. Because of this it has led me to lose confidence in my academic abilities and isolate myself from communicating with others. This module has allowed me to understand that with a good base understanding of the research topic and implementing research methods to analyse information and data correctly and without bias I can communicate my findings in a professional manner without being dissuaded. By communicating with others throughout my work I can gain necessary feedback and implement it into my work, this is a focus I have for my next module and my job that I want to strengthen.

Now what?

When I started this module, I had no understanding of research methods or ethical data collection. This module has given me the opportunity to learn these skills and implement them throughout the assignments given.

Within my daily work, the ability to understand data handling is imperative to the workings and safety of client's data. As a compliance officer I work with ISO standards and UK GDPR, the integrity and validity of data should be upheld throughout my job and education (ISO/IEC, 2018). It is through this module that i have learnt how to implement these measures while follwing standards in place. I will now in future use these skills and research methods throughout my job role to implement data correctly and to use writing methods taught throughout to write professionally within my workplace.

My dissertation project will use the reasearch practices taught as well as the data collection methodologies to compile reports in a professional and academic setting. This will be crucial for me to succeed within the keystone project and will be implemented throughout.

The skills and oppurtunities i have been taught throughout this module have helped prepare me for further education and professional work outside of university. I have gained confidence in my writing and research abilities and feel i am ready to continue developing these skills and implementing the work compiled in further projects.

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