

ESC204 | Praxis III

Contextual Research: Creating an Annotated Bibliography

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To improve your understanding of the design context provided in a Request for Proposals (RFP), you should conduct independent secondary research as an integral part of your design work. In ESC204, the objectives for this secondary research are:

1. To learn more about the **community(ies), stakeholders and other relevant contextual factors** (local environment, culture, policies, politics and more as appropriate) in the location of an opportunity which may be relevant to your design work.
2. To **encourage creativity** by expanding your individual perspective on the challenge(s) presented in the RFPs.
3. To prepare you for any primary research you may choose to conduct, and to **enable you to ask good questions**.



NOTE: It is **NOT** a requirement that you conduct primary research (directly engage with community members or other stakeholders) in ESC204. Instead, we hold that conducting thorough secondary research as a first step towards engaging with communities you wish to work with shows respect for community members' time, and also enables you to ask effective questions and gather more useful information when you do begin to engage with them.

Preparing an Annotated Bibliography

An annotated bibliography is the same as a standard bibliography, with the addition of *annotation* associated with each entry. The purpose of the annotation is to record your key thoughts, questions, notes and impressions regarding each source. In particular, for ESC204 annotations should comment on each aspect of the CRAAP framework for the sources you're considering, particularly as these apply to grey literature (a topic we will discuss in Phase 2!).

In this course, you are free to use any standard citation style for both in-text references and bibliography entries; however **you must conform to the rules of your chosen style**. A common choice for engineering documents in a variety of disciplines is the [IEEE citation style](#), which is used in the following example.



EXAMPLE: This is an example Annotated Bibliography with several credible sources relating to the context we consider as part of the Prototyping Skills Assignment.

Government of Canada. “Table 41-10-0009-01 Food security by Aboriginal Identity” Statistics Canada (statcan.gc.ca). <https://doi.org/10.25318/4110000901-eng> (retrieved 2023-01-03).

This is a table of data from Statistics Canada regarding IFS in Canada. The data comes from the [Indigenous People’s Survey](#) (IPS) conducted by the Canadian government in 2012. Since food security appears to be an ongoing issue, this information is sufficiently **current**; however, the survey is nominally conducted every 5 years, so more current information may be available (2022 data now appears to be available). The data directly measures food security for Indigenous households, so the information is **relevant**. The Canadian Government is likely an **accurate** and **authoritative** source; however, only some Indigenous populations were surveyed (this data is provided), and it is unclear if/how many/which communities refused or were not able to participate in the survey. The **purpose** of the data is to inform government practice/policy; because no particular population was the focus, the information may not accurately represent a specific community. The lack of specific representation could mask the effects of remote location on food insecurity.

M. Batal et al., “First Nations households living on-reserve experience food insecurity: prevalence and predictors among ninety-two First Nations communities across Canada,” *Canadian Journal of Public Health*, vol. Suppl 1, S52–S63, Jan. 2021

This is an academic journal article which describes a study to determine the rate of food insecurity for on-reserve First Nations households in Canada. It also analyzes barriers to traditional food consumption. The information is **current**, as the study was published in 2021. The study is **relevant**, since it analyzes First Nations experiences, which is likely a majority population in the study of IFS in Canada (Canada’s three main Indigenous groups are First Nations, Inuit, and Métis.). The study has **authority** in an academic sense; in addition, it is based on interviews with members of First Nations communities to establish a range of experiences. The **accuracy** of the study is hard to establish at first glance: the survey has 92 participating communities, but there are over 600 First Nation communities in Canada and the geographic distribution of sample could affect the results. On the other hand, the survey methods used are available for analysis. The **purpose** of this study is to establish whether food insecurity remains an ongoing issue in First Nations communities in Canada; thus, it is well-aligned with our interests; however communities living on-reserve are not representative of the entire Indigenous population in Canada, so some misalignment of purpose might exist. The findings of the study are summarized in [this report](#).

PROOF Food Insecurity Policy Research. “Indigenous Food Insecurity” proof.utoronto.ca. <https://proof.utoronto.ca/resources/indigenous-food-insecurity/> (retrieved 2023-01-03).

This is a web resource which aggregates data on the topic of IFS in Canada. Some datasets are more **current** than others, but the majority are from the last 10 years. Listed resources vary in **relevance** to the case study. PROOF is composed of researchers from prominent universities which confers **authority**; however, Indigenous voices appear to be missing. Verifying the **accuracy** of each data set would require a detailed exploration; however, they appear to be from relatively credible sources (research papers, government surveys, primary research in communities). The **purpose** of PROOF is to spotlight food insecurity in Canada, and provide accurate statistics about its prevalence (<https://proof.utoronto.ca/about-proof/>). This resource is mainly useful in aggregating potentially credible resources for further exploration.