UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG

**School of Computer Science**

**Computer Science Honours**

**Introduction to Research Methods**

**PHASE 4**

**Annotated Bibliography and Literature Review**

Vashti Galpin, 2005

Revised by Maria Jakovljevic, 2014

**1 Aim**

This task is intended to give you experience in finding material in the libraries on campus, as well as some more experience in reading and understanding research material and some additional experience (over and above that gained in Phase 2) in writing a document which compares and contrasts different research, and in doing an annotated bibliography.

**2 Instructions**

1. Read this document carefully, as well as the timings in the Honours course outline, and prepare a timeplan for yourself. You do not need to hand this in.
2. You will be given a general research question and a list of three references in a research area proposed by a member of staff who will be your supervisor for this phase. You should speak to them about the research question and the suitability of additional references. You can also ask them questions about the material that you are reading and writing about.
3. Find the references in the appropriate libraries or online. You can approach your supervisor if the material is not available at Wits or online. You must be able to convince them that this is the case before they can help you. You must not delay in obtaining the references.
4. You need to find additional papers to add to your annotated bibliography and literature review you must find at least another three and at most another four. The important issue here is the quality of your review as opposed to how many papers you find.

Note that you must find these papers yourself – you can’t just ask for suitable papers from your supervisor, although if you find reference to a paper which we do not have in our library, you can ask your supervisor if they have a copy.

If you have questions about the suitability of the papers you find, consult your supervisor. The following conditions apply to your additional references:

* At most one of them can be a reference that only appears on the Web. All the others must appear in print (although they may also be available on the Web).
* They should not all come from the same conference or journal. If you are working on a topic that is similar to another student’s topic, you must find references independently.
* It is not acceptable to ask students who have related topics for their assigned references. It is not sufficient just to find papers referenced in the three papers you are given – you must do a wider search.

1. Prepare an annotated bibliography of all six or seven papers. You can use bullet points and a more telegraphic style, but it should not be so terse that it cannot be understood. Your literature review must be focussed around your research questions you have created.
2. Prepare a literature review – this should be presented as a background and related research chapter of a research proposal.

It is important that you describe the research question and use it to focus your literature review. Additionally you must give your literature review the appropriate structure and sections, including chapter introduction and conclusion. Clearly your document cannot completely address the area as the time and number of papers you have is limited. You will, however, be expected to do a thorough job based on the papers you have chosen. The document should be 6 to 8 pages long using 11 point text and witsa4.sty.

1. Your documents must be typeset and must follow the departmentally approved system for reference citation and reference listing. Note that some of the references you are given may be incomplete or incorrect – the references in your documents must be complete and correct.

**3. Submission**

Both the annotated bibliography document and the literature review document are due by 10h00 Tuesday.

These must be submitted as hardcopies in the classroom. You must submit a signed declaration form with each submission. At the same time, also submit copies of your reference material – these will be returned to you on completion of marking. I suggest you submit any document that you have printed out or photocopied. If you have only referred to a document online, ensure that its URL appears in your reference list. Please write your name on each document you submit.

Please keep Postscript and PDF versions of the documents, and all \*.tex and \*.bib files until the end of the year; it is possible that you’ll be asked for them.

**4. Assessment**

This task counts 14% of your final mark for the topic with 6% allocated to the annotated bibliography and 8% allocated to the literature review. Your documents will be assessed by your supervisor and by myself. Your supervisor will be asked to comment on the documents and I will decide on the final mark.

**5. Time Usage and Planning**

Note that the weeks of xx March and xx April are IRM intensive weeks. During these two weeks, you will not be given any other IRM work.