

Lib1 Final Project: Research Guide

Research Guide Instructions Final Course Project

Instructions:

The purpose of this final project is to pull together the various reference sources that you have learned about throughout this course. You will create a research guide (sometimes called subject guide) on your selected topic from assignment 1.

Please follow the instructions carefully.

To receive full credit, all components listed below must be addressed in your research guide and organized following the example headings below. If you cannot provide a resource for a particular area, state the reason why that is not possible (however unlikely).

Keep in mind that your intended audience is other students and peers, people looking for information on where to begin research on your topic. Write this project from that perspective.

As an example of the idea of research guides: (though our assignment format is slightly different)

Topic: Nuclear Waste

How to turn in your final project:

This project must be turned in as a word or .rtf document. Please use formatting - such as paragraph breaks, bold or underlined headings for easy reading. Spend some time making it look nice. This project must be turned in by midnight of the due date in order to receive credit. Email your completed project to dlaney@lbcc.edu.

Research Guide Components (you must have ALL of these in your final project - labeled as such)

A. **Overview** - describe your topic, the scope of the topic, any weak or strong areas you focused on with your topic.

B. **Library of Congress Subject Headings** - provide 3-5 EXACT Library of Congress Subject Headings for your topic.

C. **Call Number Ranges** - ranges of both Dewey Decimal and Library of Congress Classification call numbers to search for in the library book stacks. Be specific. List the call number range and description. For Dewey Decimal, use http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Dewey_Decimal_classes and for LC search for your specific subcategory ranges at <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsol/lcco/>. The ranges can be in several areas, so be sure to use the books you have already researched and look at their subject headings and call number ranges.

Examples:

LC Classification:

SB 450.9 - SB 467 Gardens and Gardening

Dewey Classification:

630 Agriculture
635 Garden crops (Horticulture)

D. **Keywords** - provide at least 5 search terms to be used when searching library catalogs, reference sources, or online databases. Discuss any suggested boolean search strategies if your topic is specific enough.

E. **Reference Sources** - list at least 3 DIFFERENT sources that provide general descriptions or an introduction about your research topic. Focus on subject specific encyclopedia's, specialized dictionaries, etc. These can include either print or online resources (only if deemed academic and of research quality). Do NOT include links to websites found that give an overview. Only REFERENCE sources. Provide a citation for this source; including call number, title, author/editor, and publishing information. Hint: utilize subject specific dictionaries, encyclopedias in your library reference section - look under the call number ranges.

F. **Print Books** - list at least 3 print books (other than reference sources) which relate to your topic. Follow evaluation methods for determining whether the resource is valuable. Utilize a library online catalog to find books related to your topic. Be sure to find books that specifically match your topic.

G. **Periodicals** - List at least 3 Periodical titles (Academic or Popular) and provide citations for each periodical. Highlight why the periodical is relevant to your topic. Discuss how to search for these periodicals as most can be accessed electronically. **This is not 3 ARTICLES.** List the title of the periodical which might have articles related to your topic. (i.e. if your topic is Global Warming you might want to focus on environmental periodicals). Note whether they are academic journals, magazines and what the target audience is for each periodical.

H. **Website Resources** - Provide at least 2 website resources that provide credible information about your topic. These should be the best of the resources found on the Internet. Make sure the resources are accessible (i.e. not a paid service), and follow the rules on evaluating websites. Provide a 3+ sentence summary that gives an overview of the resource, what value it is to the topic.