Unit 2 Reflection

In this unit, I looked at the idea of a *research question* and how to conduct a literature review. A good research question has the following desired qualities: clarity, focus, to-the-point, and complex enough to warrant interest from the reader and researcher. Well-defined research questions help guide the flow of the researcher, what types of data may be needed or even how to obtain the data. I found it interesting that developing a research question is iterative and not big-upfront-design, as seen often in older software engineering practices. In this regard—the iterative nature of creating a question—literature research shares a common development concept in software engineering.

One standout point for developing research questions is that they must pertain to a relevant context and something the researcher is genuinely interested in. This makes sense because if the researcher has no idea about the research context or has no interest in the topic, the quality of research may be underwhelming and provide little value to the intended audience. Another point is how closely research question qualities match with SMART requirements, namely, Specific, Measurable, Actionable, Realistic and Timely. In previous modules, when researching papers on various topics. Additionally, I find it tremendously helpful to read documents that list their research questions upfront, such as "RQ1: What is the impact of poorly designed user experiences for users with colour-blindness in an educational setting", because it gives me (the audience) an idea of the content and what is addressed.

One difficulty of sourcing literature is the *relevance* of the content and the *scope.* Relevance because papers older than twenty years may not be relevant in today's IT landscape, while scope because researchers may touch briefly on the research question or not at all or the context of the research question is within a different industry. One consideration I learned is to look at the gaps and strengths of existing literature. These points help to support a researcher's question.

I continued to contribute to the collaborative discussion, considering ethical issues that computing professionals face. My topic for discussion relates to dark user experience patterns and I am struck by the reality of the issue both users and professionals face regarding this. I looked at various regulations and found that from an ethical point of view, such underhanded tactics take advantage of the psychological behaviour of people.