TOPIC SELECTION

The process of **selecting a topic** has been summarized in the figure below:

How to Select Your Research Topic



1. Find the area that might be important or interesting to you?

2. Find the topic that is:

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- a. New in that area
 i. It should not be redundant to the published topics (the previously investigated topics is not your goal)
- ii. It should be the emerging aspect or approach (avoid those solutions that have already been produced or provided as a service)
- b. Relevant to Information Technology (for instance mechanical physics in mining is not a good option)

3. Think about your topic for the fine tuning (it means you should consider the following points):

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- a. Feasible: You should select a topic that you can manage to study in only 12 weeks
- b. Specific: You need to write your topic with a very complete sentence (phrase) that explain all you want to achieve. Each word is important and should be chosen with notice to the meaning and technical or scientific value
- c. Test: Your sentence should be evaluated by yourself and another classmates or librarian to find out everybody can appreciate what you want to do or achieve.
- d. Refine: improve your sentence with the feedback you may receive from yourself or others

4. Use proper tools:

Google Scholar

a. Use academic search engines when you are looking for technical or scientific information:



- ii. PRIMO (CSU Online Library Search)
- iii. SCOPUS (find it from <u>PRIMO Journal databases</u>)
- iv. ScienceDirect (find it from PRIMO Journal databases)
- b. Please avoid referring to the blogs, newspapers, magazines, YouTube, or commercial and personal websites.

5. You need to test your topic before submission:



- a. Find the important keywords in your sentence or use the whole sentence to be searched by academic search engines to find out whether this topic has been published with the same or similar title previously.
- engines to find out whether this topic has been published with the same or similar title previously.
- b. Find out if there are books with the same title or even chapters of books with the same or similar titles.
- c. Find out whether your topic is studied or investigated recently, or it has not been a concern anymore. The years of relevant publications might help you.

6. Important Notice:



- a. If you do not put a considerable effort on selecting the topic you will face multiple issues in all coming
 assessments
- b. Any delay in delivery of your assessment will not only affect that one but also will impact the other assessments by domino effect.
- c. Although this subject does not have any examination, the amount of effort to be exerted is about twice. Therefore, it is recommended to pay considerable attention to the requirements, deliverables and timing.

Figure . How to select your research