Assignment 1: What is Information Science?

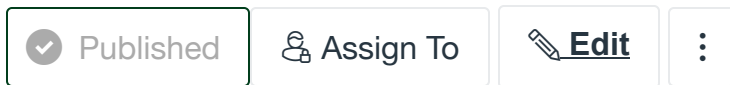✅ Published   👥 Assign To   ✎ **Edit**   ⋮

The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate knowledge of a key figure or concept in information science. You will produce a paper or presentation highlighting the significance of this figure/concept to our discipline.

Task Overview:

Select ONE option from the list below. Research this figure/concept using relevant scholarly databases (UNT libraries' databases, Google Scholar). You will then select ONE of two options for presenting your findings:

1. A ten minute recorded PowerPoint presentation. This presentation should consist of at least ten slides, with at least eight of the slides containing a visually-pleasing image/visualization. The presentation should introduce the figure/concept, provide a brief history, offer an example of the figure/concept's contribution to information science, and include a final slide in your presentation that lists references (between 3-5 references total). If you select this option, you will be graded on content (addressing the three points listed in the prior sentence) (10 pts), quality of research (inclusion of reference list, use of scholarly resources from scholarly databases rather than websites) (5 pts), visual appeal of the presentation (5 pts), quality of your recording/narration (5 pts), and completeness (at least ten slides, at least ten minute presentation) (5 pts).

2. A 1000-word research paper. This research paper will be 1000 words in length, including a title page and reference list. The paper should introduce the figure/concept, provide a brief history, and offer an example of the figure/concept's contribution to information science. Your title page should include the name of your figure/concept, your name, and the name of this course (INFO 4100). Your reference list should include between 3-5 references. If you select this option, you will be graded on content (addressing the three points listed in the prior sentence) (10 pts), quality of research (inclusion of reference list, use of scholarly resources from scholarly databases rather than websites) (5 pts), proper formatting (3 pts), quality of your writing (clear with no typos/grammar issues) (7 pts), and completeness (at least 1000 words in length, and no more than 1500 total, including 3-5 references and title page) (5 pts).

Options for Assignment Topics:

- Alan Turing
- Andrew Carnegie (Impact on Libraries)
- Bookmaking
- Carla Hayden
- Claude Shannon
- Data, Information, Knowledge, Wisdom (DIKW) Pyramid

- Diffusion of Innovations
- Digital Accessibility
- E. J. Josey
- George Boole
- Google
- Information as Thing (Michael Buckland)
- Information Literacy
- Information Need
- Information Overload
- Katharine L Sharp
- Mary Eileen Ahern
- Mary Elizabeth Wood
- Melvil Dewey
- Misinformation/Disinformation
- Robert S Taylor
- Shen Zurong
- SR Ranganathan
- Technology Addiction
- The Library of Congress
- Vannevar Bush

Please email me to get permission if you would like to write about a topic not listed above!

FAQs!

1. Does the 1000 word count include the words from the title page, references, and all sections?

Yes! - You only need to pick one topic for all of the sections. The entire paper, covering all of these sections, should be at least 1000 words. This also includes the word count from the title page and reference list. So, your paper may be only 900 in the main part but if your title page and reference list takes 100 words, then you will reach the 1000 word minimum and score the full points for that criteria!

2. Can we use subheadings to mark the different sections of the paper?

Yes! - and I would encourage it. The easier you can make it for me to see that you've covered all the paper requirements, the better!

3. Is there a preferred submission format?

I would prefer that you submit as a Microsoft Word document file. However, as long as you have all the required components, you will not be marked off if you use another format (e.g., pdf).

If there are any other questions I can answer for you, please do not hesitate to message me!

Points   25

Submitting   a text entry box, a website url, or a file upload

File Types   doc, docx, pdf, txt, and ppt

Due	For	Available from	Until
Feb 15, 2026	Everyone	-	-

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