EGR 120 Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Introduction to Engineering

File: EGR120 – Information Literacy Due date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Homework Assignment #11 (Information Literacy)**

**Reading Assignment:**

Class Notes – Presentation on Information Literacy

**Problem Assignment:**

Select a topic to use in searching for information by selecting 3 keywords.

Select one keyword from each column, but all in the same row.

* Example 1: You might pick the following 3 keywords: ***Alternative energy, Wind, Renewable***
* Example 2: You might pick the following 3 keywords: ***Battery, Lead Acid, Energy density***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Keyword #1 | Keyword #2 | Keyword #3 |
| Alternative energy | Solar  Wind  Biodiesel  Geothermal  Hydroelectric | Green  Renewable  Sustainable  Competition  Student Project |
| Robot | Autonomous  Line following  Infrared sensors  Ultrasonic sensors  Vision | Track  Obstacle  Course  Competition  Student Project |
| Battery | Lithium ion  Alkaline  Lead acid  Nickel cadmium | Rechargeable  Energy density  Competition  Student Project |
| Student competition | Civil engineering  Mechanical engineering  Electrical engineering  (select another discipline) | Renewable  Sustainable  Interdisciplinary  Environmental |
| 3D printing | ABS  PLA  Filament  Thermoplastics | Makerbot  Stratasys  Mbot  3DSystems |
| Instructor approval needed in advance: Pick three keywords on your own. Let the first keyword be the broadest topic or the main topic. | | |

Complete the attached worksheets using the topic (3 keywords) you selected above.

Download the document from the course website so that you can copy and paste information into the document.

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**Worksheet Part 1 – Using Databases**

1. List your topic (your 3 keywords):
   1. Keyword #1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   2. Keyword #2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   3. Keyword #3: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Go to the database ***IEEE Xplore*** on TCC’s website.
   * Record the results for various searches:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Search for: | Number of search results |
| Keyword #1 |  |
| Keyword #1 and also select Journals & Magazines |  |
| Keyword #1 AND Keyword #2 |  |
| Keyword #1 NOT Keyword #2 |  |
| Keyword #1 OR Keyword #2 |  |
| Keyword #1 AND Keyword #2 AND Keyword #3 |  |

* Select an article of your choice from the last search. See if the entire article is available. Download the citation and the abstract. Copy and paste them into your document.
* Is the full article available?
* Citation:
* Abstract:

1. Go to the database ***Academic Search Complete*** on TCC’s website.

* Search using Keyword #1 AND Keyword #2 AND Keyword #3 (remove a keyword if you get no results). Also check the box to ***show only full-text articles***.
* Select an article of your choice from the search. See if the entire article is available. Download the citation and the abstract. Copy and paste them into your document.
* Is the full article available?
* Citation:
* Abstract:

1. Go to the database ***Safari Books Online*** on TCC’s website.

* Search using Keyword #1 AND Keyword #2 AND Keyword #3 (remove a keyword if you get no results).
* Select the book of your choice. List the title, author, publisher, and date.
* Title:
* Author:
* Publisher:
* Date:

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**Worksheet Part 2 – Evaluating information from a database**

1. Evaluate the article found using ***Academic Search Complete*** (step 3 on Worksheet Part 1). Answer each of the following:
2. Authority:
   * Who is the author?
   * Who is the publisher?
   * Does the author appear to be well qualified?
3. Scope:
   * Is the article relevant to your topic?
   * Is it too specific, too general, or about right?
4. Objectivity:
   * Is the article biased? If so, what is the motivation?
5. Accuracy:
   * Does the article appear to be accurate?
   * Does the article cite other sources?
   * Does the article include a bibliography or show works cited at the end?
6. Currency:
   * What is the date of the article?
7. Based on the answers above, would this be a suitable source to cite for a college-level research assignment?

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**Worksheet Part 3 – Evaluating information from a web site**

1. Go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) and repeat the search used with Academic Search Complete. Be sure to use the exact same keywords and Boolean operators. For example: Keyword #1 AND Keyword #2 AND Keyword #3

* How many results were found? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Select one web site. List the URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Evaluate the web page above. Answer each of the following:
2. Authority:

* Who is the author? (List Anonymous if it isn’t clear.)
* Who is the publisher (or what company/organization)?
* Does the author appear to be well qualified?

1. Scope:

* Is the web page relevant to your topic?
* Is it too specific, too general, or about right?

1. Objectivity:

* Is the web page biased? If so, what is the motivation? (e.g., sales)

1. Accuracy:

* Does the web page appear to be accurate?
* Does the web page cite (or link to) other sources?
* Does the web page include a bibliography or show works cited at the end?

1. Currency:

* When was the website last updated (check the bottom of the main page)?

1. Based on the answers above, would this be a suitable source to cite for a college-level research assignment?