

LIB 120 Assignment #1 General and Subject-Specific Encyclopedias

This assignment provides you with the following:

- An opportunity to explore the Reference collection
- Practice with the HELIN catalog
- Practice using Boolean search techniques
- Experience using general and subject-specific encyclopedias
- Background info for your semester project
- Context and terminology for to your topic

If you have any questions about this assignment or problems with it, please see me!

What Discipline Studies Your Topic?

First, go to the "Academics" page on the URI web site at <http://www.uri.edu/home/academics/>. Click on the link that says "Colleges, Schools, and Departments" and look carefully at the list. Write down or type a list of three of the schools or departments that you think would be most likely to teach a course related to your Semester Project topic. You'll come back to this when you're looking for a Subject-specific Encyclopedia.

Find a General Encyclopedia

Search the HELIN catalog by title for the most recent edition of the *New Encyclopaedia Britannica* at URI. (Make sure you catch that British spelling: encycloaedia.) Note the complete LC call number and look for it behind the Reference Desk.

Find an Encyclopedia Article & Get Supporting Materials

Locate an article on your topic and read the entry. If you can't find the encyclopedia or an appropriate article, please ask at the Reference Desk! *Note: looking first at the index is the best way to find the volume most appropriate for your topic.*

Photocopy the article. (If it's really long and only part of the article discusses your subject, just copy the first page of the article and then the pages that pertain to your topic.)

Summarize & Cite the Article

Read the article, think about it, and type a brief summary of it in your own words. This should be no more than 6 sentences long, describing what the article is about. What does it cover? What are the main points? What kind of information did you find in the article?

Create a citation for the article, following my example on page 3.

Find a Subject-Specific Encyclopedia

Using the departments you looked up earlier, go back to the HELIN catalog and search for a subject- or discipline-specific encyclopedia. Perform a Boolean Keyword search for words likely to be in the title, like "encyclopedia", and one of the disciplines you noted earlier. Search again by "Subject" if necessary.

Play with a variety of keywords. For my sample topic of privacy on the Internet, I might try *encyclopedia AND computer science*, *encyclopedia AND communication studies*, and so on. Remember to separate the concepts you type in with the word "AND."

If you need help finding a subject-specific encyclopedia related to your topic, it's perfectly OK to ask for help from me or at the Reference Desk - just be aware of how we help you.

If you want, write the call numbers of some possible encyclopedias below:

Find a *Subject-Specific* Encyclopedia Article & Get Supporting Materials

Look up your Semester Project topic in the subject-specific encyclopedia that you found. If you are unable to find a relevant article on your topic, please try another encyclopedia.

Create a citation for the article. See my example, but also include the LC Call Number and the LC Subject Headings of the encyclopedia (you need to look at the HELIN page for this).

If your article has an author, list his or her name(s) first, with the last name first, then continue your citation with the article title.

Photocopy the title page of the volume you're using and photocopy the article.

Summarize the Article

Read the article, think about it, and summarize it - again, in your own words - as described above.

Formulate a Research Question

Consider my example on the following page, and create your own research question.

What You'll Hand In

- One sheet with the applicable disciplines, citations, summaries, and research question.
- Photocopies of both articles, and a photocopy of the title page of your subject-specific encyclopedia.

Amanda Izenstark
LIB 120
Asst. 1: Encyclopedias
22 January 2008

Disciplines that might study my topic: Computer Science & Statistics, Communications Studies, General Business, Business Administration

General Encyclopedia Article:

"Information Systems." Encyclopaedia Britannica. Chicago: Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2007. 625-630.

The section "computer crime and abuse" (p. 628) describes different types of computer crimes such as viruses, "Trojan horse attacks" (p. 629), and impersonation. The section called "securing information" (p. 629) covers different ways of verifying that users are who they say they are, using tools such as passwords and biometrics, and using firewalls and encryption to keep information secure.

Subject-Specific Encyclopedia Article:

"Computer Spying." World of Computer Science. Ed. Brigham Narins. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale Group, 2002. 147-148.

LC Call Number: REF QA 76.15 W67 2002
LC Subject Headings: Mathematics -- Encyclopedias

This article discusses how computers can be used to record the activity of the user or of other users. The article also includes information on the US and international laws surrounding computer surveillance. There is also a brief discussion of how computers can be used to get information in the business world.

Research Question:

BROAD TOPIC:	Internet
RESTRICTED TOPIC:	Privacy on the Internet
NARROWED TOPIC:	User surveillance on the Internet
RESEARCH QUESTION:	What tools are used to monitor what people do on the Internet? How does this surveillance affect user privacy?