



Literate Engineer: Assignment #7: Research Diary

Your name: _____

Your e-mail address: _____

Programme: _____

Course Name: _____

Semester: _____

Short Description:

A research diary is a log of the steps and thought processes researchers go through as they conduct their research. A research diary gives students the opportunity to reflect on the research process as they discover more information about a topic.

Learning Outcomes:

- Conceptualize an effective research strategy and collect and interpret evidence.

Instructions

What is it? A research diary is a log of the steps and thought processes researchers go through as they conduct their research. A research diary gives students the opportunity to reflect on the research process as they discover more information about a topic.

Parameters: Write all the research diary entries in the template provided. Each time you search for information on your research topic, you will add an entry to the diary. Each entry will include the following information:



- **Date and time** of each search session
- **Name of resource(s) used:** List the library research databases, search tools, and finding aids used (e.g. library catalog, Academic Search Complete)
- **Search terms used** (keywords, synonyms, related terms, subject tags/descriptors)
- **Search strategies used** (could include keywords, search construction, subject tags/descriptors, limiters (e.g. peer reviewed), cited references, physical browsing,

etc.)

- List the **number of results** you got with each search.
- List the **materials you found** that were **relevant to your topic** and that you plan to read. Be sure to print or email to yourself any articles/citations that seem relevant
- Problem solving you did to **adjust your search strategy** based on the relevancy of search results and identified gaps in the information needed
- Reflect on the **resources you used**. What was easy about them? Difficult?

After completing all the diary entries, you will turn in a **2-page narrative** summarizing your research experiences using your diary entries as a guide. Your narrative should be a brief reflection on and synthesis of your experiences searching for information that expands on your diary entries. Your narrative should address the process of how you narrowed or broadened your research topic based on initial research attempts; how you worked with library resources and tools; which search strategies were helpful or unhelpful; and any obstacles you encountered as you tried to find good information on your research topic.

Resources: You may wish to consult any of the following resources for additional help with this assignment:

	Research Help	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Library Information Desk- 1st Floor of Library (open 24/5)• 24/7 Ask A Librarian Chat: [add link to ask a librarian]
 Book	Find Books, Articles, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Library Research Guides: [add link to guides]

Research diary entries guide

Parameter	Research diary entries
Date and time of each search session	
Name of resource(s) used	
Search term used	
Search strategies used	
Number of results	
Materials you found - citation	

Parameter	Research diary entries
Problem solving – adjustment to your topic	
Resources used	