



Information Literate Engineer: Assignment #3: The Sorting Machine

Your name: _____

Your e-mail address: _____

Programme: _____

Course Name: _____

Semester: _____

Short Description:

I've just told you about the kinds of things you can find in the library. Now, you will work through identifying the kinds of information materials that we have in the library and how each kind of material will support you through your research process/ inquiry.

This is a group assignment. In this "**The Sorting Machine**" exercise, a group of students will visit the library reference desk. You will be given a pile of information materials by the Reference Librarian; and you will be asked to correctly sort the print materials that you will be given into several piles. You will choose the categories for the piles - guided by the class discussion on the different kinds of information materials available! Possible categories include Popular and Scholarly, or Primary and Secondary and Tertiary. You will work as a team, striving for both accuracy and speed. You will examine each item that you will find in the library, determine which category the item belongs in, and then discuss your choices. In effect, the entire exercise and working in groups will become some kind of a "*sorting machine*" as the suggested name of this assignment.

Learning outcomes

- Correctly categorize library items.
- Describe the different role that each category plays in the research process.
- Discuss how particular items could be used in the research process, in the context of each item's category.

Instructions

For this assignment, you will need to:

- a) Visit the Engineering Library to access the print materials

- b) Use the Slide Sample to guide you on how to select the different categories of information materials - the Slide Sample will guide you through this assignment. The Slide shows the categories of information materials and provide examples for each category.

Take note of the following guides/ instructions

- The names that you give for each category can be standard library terminology, or they can describe the functions of the items.
 - For example, you could call your categories either "Primary", "Secondary" or "Tertiary," or you could call those same categories "Evidence" and "Analysis" and "Summaries," which describe their functions - ***see Slide Sample.***
- On the slide that you have created, list examples of the types of things that belong in each category. Make sure that the examples are relevant to the subject of the class.
 - For example, "Interviews" and "Speeches" would be appropriate examples for a history class but not for an engineering, physics or chemistry class.
- Each category should be in one area of the slide, so that you can use the slide as a map to show where the pile of sorted items should go.
 - For example, if the "Analysis" category is in the top right corner of the slide, you would create a corresponding pile of Analysis items in the front right corner of the Slide Sample.

Fill the table below to help you organise the information materials

Item citation	Characteristics of the item	Item type	Item category	Reasons for your answer

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