

3.093 – Information Exploration: Becoming a Savvy Scholar Research Log Outline

Research logs will accompany each assignment for this course, and are worth 30% of your total grade. The purpose of these is to make you think about your search process as you record your steps, and for the instructors to get a sense of how your search process is improving over the semester.

For each Research Log, please include the following elements, regardless of format (text, screen shots, charts, tables, etc.):

- The name(s) of the database(s), web site(s), book(s), or other source(s) you used to find information for the assignment
- Describe why you chose those sources for your information search. Try to be specific and justify your choices.
- Describe your search process (the steps you took, the keywords you searched, how you went about searching).
- Explain the results you got from each source. Did you find what the information you expected to find? Were your results scholarly/academic in nature? Which results did you select, and why did you choose them?
- The amount of time you spent searching each source.
- Describe your emotional response to the experience. Were you frustrated, confused, confident, worried about time, etc.?

Sample Research Logs are posted on the course web site. Email your Research Logs to Angie Locknar (locknar@mit.edu) before class begins on the date the assignment is due.