

PART I**What is a pathfinder?**

A pathfinder is an introductory checklist of sources on a specific topic that serves as a guide to sources. It is not intended to serve as an exhaustive guide to the literature, but to aid a user in systematically locating materials on a topic. This assignment will help students understand the organization of traditional reference information as well as Internet reference information and its organization.

What is the first step?

Familiarize yourself with the topic and with the library holdings. Remember you are in a virtual library. There are resources other than the usual library holdings such as inter-library loans, electronic books and other reference materials as well as Internet resources. Pretend that others will use your pathfinder to make their search for information easier. Assume that they do not know much about the subject and build the guide you wished was around when you started your researching on this topic.

ABAC's library staff will assist us in using ABAC's library resources for the next lab session. We will then use an additional lab session for work on the project. This will not be the only time in which you visit the library or the Internet. It is quite likely you will visit them several times over the course of the assignment.

How should the Pathfinder be formatted?

The actual pathfinder part of your assignment must not exceed two single-spaced typed pages. There are a number of factors to remember when designing a pathfinder. First, you must consider your audience. In our case we are developing pathfinders for adults. Second, since there will be a great deal of information on your topic then you must organize it in such a fashion so that it is easy to read and be selective of the resources that you use. It must be the best resources for your audience and your topic. You may include clipart, photographs, various font styles and terminology. Some use a 2-column format so that it is easy to read. As far as the referencing format goes for each individual citation, the rule is consistency.

Each pathfinder **must** contain:

- Title
- Brief Description of topic
- Print Resources – Books or Journals or Magazines
- Online Resources- Internet Sites
- Videos, CD-ROM, Etc.
- Community Resources- People and Places
- Keyword and Phrases for Searching (For search the online catalog for additional information)

Each reference will contain one or two sentences summarizing the resource. Most importantly the web pages should be free from spelling and grammatical errors.

How do I know that the resource is good example?

A couple of rules are helpful:

- If there are abundant examples, pick one that is brand new and one that is older. Compare them.
- If you don't know the topic in detail, you may have to choose examples according to the quality of the publisher, the specificity of the title, or the renowned author. These will not guarantee the worth of the material but they will provide some reasonable examples. Professional association and trade journals also may provide some idea of the quality.
- If you find only one good example, put down only that one; don't fish for ones that seem marginal.

How will the pathfinder be evaluated?

Students will be evaluated on content, design, subject knowledge, readability, usability, overall appearance, spelling & grammar.

PART II

Identify a **scientific** or **research** journal article containing some information about your subject. (Sources from uncited work are unacceptable). After reading the article, the student will then write a minimum of two typed paged summation. Could this paper have a different type of conclusion? Give a brief explanation of why or why not this paper's conclusions could be interpreted differently. Include at least one paragraph at the end of why or why not.

When is this project due?

Monday, September 29, 2008

NAME.....

Criteria		Possible Points	Point Deducted	Comments
Components	Title and Brief Description of Topic	5		
	Print Resources – Books & Magazines	5		
	Online Resources – Internet Sites	5		
	Videos, CD-ROM, etc	5		
	Community Resources – People & Places	5		
	Keywords and Phrases for Searching	5		
	References contains 1-2 sentence descriptions	5		
Design/Overall appearance	Pleasing to the eye; use of graphics appropriate to subject	5		
Subject knowledge	Appropriateness to the average adult seeking information about subject	5		
Readability/ Usability	Resources appropriate to audience; easy to follow and use	5		
Spelling & Grammar	Misspelled words or incorrect grammar usage	5		
Attendance for research methods	1. Computer Lab	10		
	2. Computer Lab	10		
Summary Paper	Summation for research article	25		
Score		100		

Additional Comments: