LIS 186 Assignment #4

Three Types of Sources

Due Sunday, X/XX/XXXX at 6:00 pm

Purpose

We've been discussing the information cycle in class, and how the different stages of the cycle lead to the creation of different types of sources. When you can identify where a source fits into that cycle, you will be able to accurately assess how useful it will be to the specific project you are working on, whether it is a short essay, a presentation, a research paper, or something for an employer. Knowing how to find sources from different stages of the information cycle is also something you will need to do in other classes and even after college. For example, if your employer wants you to find some statistics about real estate trends in your region, you will want to know what kinds of information sources are likely to have this information, and how current and comprehensive that information is likely to be.

- Skills

  1. Classification of sources according to where they fit into the information cycle.
  2. Successful search for sources from different stages of the information cycle.

- Knowledge

  This assignment will familiarize you with knowledge in the following areas:
  1. Common characteristics of the different stages of the information cycle.

Tasks

For this assignment, you are going to take what you have learned about the information cycle and apply it to the topic you are developing for your research essay.

1. Using Google, Google Scholar, the library catalog, or a database of your choice, find three sources that are produced in different parts of the information cycle.
2. You will provide a citation in APA format for each one; you do not need to copy or attach the actual documents.
3. One source should be an "immediate" source, such as a newspaper article, blog, or social media post (not a single tweet—either a chain or a paragraph or longer substantive Facebook post or similar).
4. The second should be something that falls in the middle of the cycle, such as a magazine or journal article.
5. The third source should be something from the later stage of the cycle, such as a reference source (e.g., encyclopedia article, but not Wikipedia), handbook, monograph, or textbook.

Anderson, M. (2021, July 28). *Three types of source assignment* [Assignment prompt]. Pacific University Oregon Research Repository. https://commons.pacificu.edu/work/ns/c74a4ca9-8c9b-4918-981b-d8817475c6ff

As always, if you have any questions about the assignment, please ask! Your instructors are here to help you make sense of the information sources you find.

Criteria for Success

1. Fill out the attached worksheet and upload to the Moodle assignment page by the due date.
2. A successful assignment will have three properly identified sources, one from each stage of the information cycle, related to the topic chosen for the researched essay.
3. Each source will be cited according to the APA Citation Guidelines on the class Moodle site.

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Melissa Anderson – Southern Oregon University Hannon Library

Name:

Research Topic/Question:

Source #1 (earliest part of the information cycle):

Source #2 (middle of the information cycle):

Source #3 (late stage of the information cycle):

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