

Reflective Essay on Research Strategies and Use of Library Tools and Resources

As I embarked on my research project, I knew that the process would require careful planning and organization with my team. Our first step was to establish a clear research question, which would guide my inquiry and shape the direction of my project. Once I had identified my question, I began to develop a research plan that would allow me to gather relevant information and data and analyze it in a meaningful way.

My research process involved several key stages, each of which required different strategies and techniques. The first stage was to identify potential sources of information, including scholarly articles, books, and other relevant publications. To do this, I used a range of library tools and resources, such as online databases and search engines, as well as the expertise of the library staff.

Once I had identified potential sources, I began to read and analyze them in depth, looking for key themes, ideas, and arguments that would help me to answer my research question. This involved a careful and systematic process of notetaking and synthesis, in which I organized my findings into a coherent and logical structure.

Throughout this process, I encountered several challenges and obstacles that required me to adjust my approach and redirect my inquiry. For example, I found that some of the sources I had identified were not as relevant or useful as I had hoped, and I had to look for alternative sources. I also encountered gaps in my knowledge and understanding, which required me to do additional research and seek out the advice and guidance of experts in the field. One last example it was challenging to find non-profit workers that was whiling to respond to the questionnaire. Many times, workers were worried about privacy and impact in their job. Despite these challenges, I was able to make significant progress in my research, thanks in large part to the resources and tools available to me through the library. In particular, I found the Student Technology Consultants staffing the Library's Computing Help desk to be an invaluable resource, as they were able to answer questions about access to library resources and help me navigate the various databases and search engines.

Looking back on my research process, I can see that I have grown in my understanding and use of information tools and resources in the discipline appropriate to my project. I have learned how to identify and evaluate sources, how to synthesize and analyze information, and how to communicate my findings effectively. I have also gained a deeper appreciation for the role of libraries and information technology in the research process, and the importance of collaboration and community in advancing knowledge and understanding.