

“Bibliography-building Game” Exercise

Learning Objectives: Students learn (1) how to perform a thorough literature search using the proper resources and processes, and (2) how to distinguish between good and bad sources

Activity: Gathering Citations in a Competitive Game

Revised from BilioBouts, at University of Michigan, described in <http://bit.ly/1W6bXno>

1. **Gathering Phase:** Given the general topic that students are researching, charge each student with searching online for citations on the topic and gather them in a bibliography file. (You could do this exercise second after the “Identifying related literature” exercise.)
 2. **Self-selecting Phase:** Each student chooses their best 5 sources/citations and brings them to the meeting as a listing with their name attached to them. Suggest they use content, relevance, quality of venue, and citation rate to judge quality.
 3. **Rating Phase:** Each student looks at the other students’ lists of best citations, and rates each citation based on usefulness of content, relevance, quality of venue, and citation rate.
 4. **Choosing-the-best Phase:** Using the ratings for all of the citations that the students have gathered, each student chooses the 10 best citations from all the citations gathered on the topic to build their own bibliography.
 5. **Scoring Phase:** Each student totals their score, which is calculated as follows:
 - a. Add points (decided upon by the instructor) for gathering above a threshold or within a range of citation count. Weight citation counts to correct for year, e.g., oldest = 1 * count; youngest = 2 * count.
 - b. Add points based on the number of citations they submitted that were ranked over a certain score in rating phase.
 - c. Add points based on the number of citations that students submitted that are included in other students’ final selected bibliography.
 6. **The Winner:** the student with the highest combined score.
- Note: Game creators decide how many sources students must find, contribute to the game, rate, and choose for their best bibliographies. If 10 sources are too many for the Best Bibliography bout, reduce it to 8, 6, or fewer.