

BACHELOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (HONS)
UNIVERSITAS PEMBANGUNAN NASIONAL “VETERAN” JATIM

SEPTEMBER 2009 BATCH 3, SEMESTER 2

BIT102 Internet Concepts and Infrastructure

ASSIGNMENT 1

Due date : 4 June 2010

Weighting : 25% of total marks for the subject

Format : Search Report and Essay

Facilitator : Ms. Melinda Chung Sew Ying

Objectives

This assignment is designed to:

- assist you to gather and integrate knowledge on a topic of interest;
- improve your practical skills in searching the Internet, and refining the search process;
- allow you to demonstrate your understanding and knowledge; and
- develop your ability to communicate well in writing and demonstrate your ability to write an academic essay.

Task

This is a group assignment for **two** members in a group. The group is required to produce:

Part A

A report in a tabular format describes your search process using a search tool for online materials to be used to produce the essay in Part B of the topic (given in Part B) that you have chosen.

Part B

An essay consists of materials that you have obtained using the search tools as well as your opinion and views on the topic.

Part A - Search report

You are required to produce a report in the tabular format given below, for a search tool (such as search engine, Google) that you use to find materials relevant for your chosen topic (You may use more than one search tool, but you need to report your search process for only one type of search tool).

Search report	Search tool used: xxx
1. Give reasons for your choice of the search tool	
2. explain/show the syntax or key words entered;	
3. demonstrate refinement/advanced techniques used;	
4. give the number of hits obtained;	
5. give two links/URLs to two websites where you find the materials useful for the topic;	
6. comment on the search tool used and the quality of the results obtained.	

Part A - How to proceed?

A. Choosing a topic

In order to proceed with this assignment, you may begin by choosing a topic from those five topics given in Part B.

B. Decide on the search tool

After deciding on the topic that you want to do, you need to conduct a **search** for materials that are relevant to the topic using WWW search tools (such as search engines) so that you can write your **essay for Part B**.

C. Demonstrate your refinement techniques

To demonstrate that you have a good understanding of the working of search technique, it is important that you refine your search process by exploring the advanced features available in the search tool of your choice.

Example: you can refine your search using more advanced syntax (such as Booleans operators, filters etc), so that you get fewer, but **better quality** hits. Reading the ‘Advanced search’ help file available in a search tool will be useful for you.

Part B - The Essay (maximum 2000 words)

You are required to write an essay on one of the following topics.

1. Online learning – education approach for the future?
2. The development and effects of social networks (such as Twitter, facebook) in your country.
3. The development and application of business intelligence systems in the financial sectors.
4. The development and application of data mining for web hosts.
5. Concerns of mobile commerce.

Part B- How to proceed?

1. Choose a topic from the list given above.
2. Express other authors’ ideas directly or in your own words (remember to cite the sources) as well as adding your own ideas and opinions relevant to the ideas. To do this you need to analyse and criticize ideas where appropriate and present your point of view. **Other people’s ideas and opinions must be supported with extensive referencing.** Please note the plagiarism section under General Information.
3. Be clear and concise in your expression paying particular attention to sentence structure, paragraphing, punctuation, spelling etc.
4. Use **headings** for the different sections in your report where appropriate. You must **integrate and present** the information in a logical manner and not just ‘dump’ information under headings.
5. Adhere to the **word limit**. Give the word count at the end of each section (see essay format given below) in your report. Marks will be deducted if assignments are under or over the word limit by an unreasonable amount.

Format of the essay

The format of the essay is given as follows:

- **Report title**
- **Abstract** (maximum 200 words). It should contain the **main theme** of the topic and that your research on the topic is based on materials available from the WWW/Internet

resources. Hence, an abstract is not the same as an introduction, it is not meant to tell the reader what they are about to read in the report, it is meant to be a summary of the total report (including the findings).

- **Introduction** (maximum 300 words). This section basically contains information includes the background, scope and the current state/development of your topic. It differs from an abstract in that it introduces the topic and it should lead the reader onto the next section.
- **Body** (maximum 1,300 words) - includes the actual report details. This section should contain the information, ideas, viewpoint and opinion relating to the topic. Extensive use of referencing of 'borrowed' materials should be used in this section. Some simple examples of in-text citation are given below:

Referencing should be within the text (that is, within your report). The author's surname and year of publication (plus page reference if necessary) are written in brackets in the body of your writing. For example:

Example 1: Turban (2003) comments that 'xxxxx.....', and this would suggest such technique has not been adopted by the industry.

Example 2: Thomas (2004), for example, found that the techniques are more appropriate to be used as a measure of reliability and in a study carried out in 2004, it was found that by extensive usage of such technique, much time could be saved. (Wexley, S 1973).

- **Conclusion** (maximum 200 words) - summarizes the material presented. No additional or previously unmentioned ideas or references should be raised or used within this section.
- **Reference section** - the full version of the sources used in your report is placed in the reference list at the end of your work in an alphabetical order. The format of this reference list, is given in the **Harvard System** (available at <http://elearning.help.edu.my/accel> - BIT102 course folder). No word count required for this section.

General information

Neither the use of 'I' (too personal) nor 'the writer' (too pompous) are recommended. It is much better to make the essay totally impersonal by avoiding both. This means that careful - and in some cases, considerable thinking must be put into some sentences to achieve impersonality.

Plagiarism

A plagiarist is one who takes for his/her own unacknowledged use the thoughts or writings of another person, claiming them as his/her own. Plagiarism is cheating, and is one of the most serious offences any writer can make. If plagiarism is detected, it may result in you failing the particular assessment item and therefore possibly failing the overall subject.

Assignment submission

To use the assignment cover sheet for this assignment. The marking scheme must be **appended** at the end of your assignment for marking purposes.

Late submission – a 5% per working day will be deducted. Submission later than 10 working days will not be accepted.

Assignment 1 Marking Scheme – to be attached to the end of the assignment

Part A Search Report (20 marks)

Issues to be assessed	Markers will consider the following	Marks
Variety of search resources utilized	Have you used an appropriate variety of sources, and provided evidence of these searches (by providing a link to your saved results)?	/8
Narrative, that is the description of search process and comprehensiveness of the search.	Have you discussed how you used each of the search facilities? Have you stated the actual search syntax used and described the results you obtained. Have you included comprehensive information on how your search was refined? How you reduced the number of hits but at the same time obtained higher quality results! Have you discussed which type of search tool produced the best results for your topic and why?	/12
Total marks		/20

Part B The Essay (30 marks)

Areas to be assessed	Marker will consider the following	Marks
Abstract	The abstract gives an overview of all important points in your essay and states concisely what you did or found.	/4
Introduction	A brief lead-in to the arguments you are going to make in your essay by way of background or current status of your topic area, and sets the scene by stating how you will go about covering the topic.	/4
Essay	Your essay should present information, your opinion and arguments. This is where you state your point of view and compare and contrast it to other authors'. Assertions must be justified with references.	/12
Conclusion	Should show concisely the conclusion to the arguments in your essay without adding any new information.	/4
References	You must use the Harvard Referencing System as described in HUC's elearning site. Sources must match those cited in the text of your essay.	/6
Total marks		/30

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