Library Research Award 2016 Short Essay Questions

1. What is your research question or thesis statement?

2. Provide some examples of keywords related to your research question or thesis statement that you used to find sources.

3. List the resources you used to conduct your searches (e.g., Ebsco Academic Search or other databases, library catalog, search engines, social media, Archives, Special Collections, subject specialists).

4. Describe, in brief, how you conducted one of your searches. Consider how you used keywords and other tools or strategies within the catalog/databases/search engines to improve, refine, broaden, or narrow your searches.

5. How did you choose the sources that were eventually included in your bibliography/reference list/citations? What did you take into consideration? How did you exclude sources?

6. Provide one example from your research of what you consider to be a particularly well-used, well-applied, or well-integrated source. Explain how you used this source and how it helped/supported your research.

7. In higher education, scholarly sources (both books and articles) are given higher priority/value/authority than mainstream/popular/non-scholarly/nontraditional sources (blog posts, social media, Wikipedia). But these non-scholarly sources are valuable in their own right. Describe, in brief, your use of a non-scholarly source that helped/supported your research. This doesn’t need to be a source that appeared in your bibliography/reference list.

8. Which citation format did you use? How did you check your citations for accuracy/proper formatting?

9. How does your research make an original contribution to your field or address an existing knowledge gap?