**FIN 400**

**Self-Directed Research Exercises for Debated Finance Topics**

1. What is your research question or topic?

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*For example: should we embrace the future of financial technology?*

1. key Concepts from the question/topic 1. ; 2\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_;

*For example: Financial Technology*

1. Explore your topic via the technologies (ChatGPT, Google, etc.) available to you, what other concepts might be related to your topic? any other specific concept that you can add to narrow your scope?

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*For example:*

*Related concept: Fintech; Fintech pros and cons; Fintech and Privacy; Fintech and Convenience*

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| Effective information searching is a **responsive**, **reflective**, and **iterative** process and **pearl-growing** (finding other possible key concepts to expand your search along the way) is very important. |

**Being Responsive (Two-way Communication); Being Reflective (Asking why it doesn't work)**

1. Search **Business Source Complete (15 mins)**

Start with using your key concept 1, what do the search results tell you?

1. Are there **too few** results?

If yes, here is how to respond:

* Add a new database to the search platform (e.g. EconLit)
* Search synonyms, broader/narrower terms, and related concepts and connect them with [OR] search operator
* Change from default to search full text [TX All Text]

1. Are there **too many** results?

If yes, here is how to respond:

* Use filters on the left column of the search interface
* Add another concept to the search and use [AND] to search both concepts together

1. Do most of the results seem **relevant**?

If not, here is how to respond:

* Use quotation marks to search for a specific phrase
* Search the keyword in the article [TI Title]
* Add key concept 2 or other related concepts
* Consider excluding the “noise” results with filter function or [NOT] search operator

**Pearl Growing**

1. By reading other titles or abstracts of the search results, have you identified other key concepts or keywords that you can use to advance your research?

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1. **Find** at least one relevant article; **download** it to your laptop; and **copy the citation** to a Word document.
2. **Add** two or more articles toa **folder,** **select** the articles in the folder and in the right column choose **Save as Files, check** the HTML link and APA citations and save it. Now you have the citations of all selected articles and the permanent links!
3. **Search US Major Dailies (15 mins)**

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| Successful information searching involves seeking diverse perspectives and considering arguments from different sides. |

1. Adding keywords that can represent different perspectives when appropriate and search US major dailies to identify some news articles on the topic:

For example,

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| **Positive** | **Negative** | **Neutral** |
| Benefits  Advantages  Opportunities  Good | Disadvantages  Drawbacks  Detriments  Challenges  Bad  Risk | Pros and cons  Impact |
| Convenience  Efficiency  Cost reduction  Accessibility | Risk  Privacy Concerns  Job displacement |  |

1. Try to incorporate the techniques you learned in step 4 to find articles that represent different opinions; **download** them and **copy the citation** to the Word document.
2. Follow the **4-step source evaluation strategy** to evaluate the sources you find.

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| Information varies in quality, whether it's from a library or online; effective researchers take strategic approaches to evaluate the sources. |

1. Develop the **habits of mind** for successful information searching.

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| Effective researchers direct their attention towards uncovering the truth and exploring diverse perspectives, rather than seeking sources solely to justify their opinions. They often suspend their judgement until they see the big picture. |