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Respondent

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4. Academic Major *

Geology and Computer Engineering

10. Reflection Prompt 1

How did you select your research topic or question? Did your topic or question change in any way during the research process?

(100 words minimum) *

Mars and outer space has fascinated me for as long as I can remember. I chose Mars specifically because it is considered first in line for the first planet we colonize as humans. I chose the specific topic though due to the fact that when we are taking the seminar class, we are informed to find a right sized topic to cover. Originally, I was going to focus on mainly on just phyllosilicate and sulfate deposits. This however was advised by my instructor that it could be too narrow and lead to issues. What did not change though was the orientating it around the Noachian - Hesperian boundary. The guiding question came about initially because of Olympus Mons' size and how it is on Mars, a planet about half the size of Earth.

11. Reflection Prompt 2

Did interactions with librarians, your professor(s), peers, and/or others influence the direction of your research?

(100 words minimum) *

Yes, the instructor for this course had weekly lectures that were guides on how to properly do this research for the class. In addition to this, faculty and alumni would come to our class. Alumni and some faculty would present their own research to give us an idea of what a finished product looks like. Other faculty such as those who work in the library, gave us insight on how to properly use the resources NDSU had to offer to streamline our search for literature. Peers were constructive in influencing by gauging their natural interest on the topic. Certain professors had previous experience either working on projects for potential Mars missions, or they were just heavily interested in Mars anyways.

12. Reflection Prompt 3

How did you find the sources you used in your research? Which specific search tools or databases - library or otherwise - did you use? If you encountered any challenges while searching for sources, how did you overcome them?

(100 words minimum) *

The NDSU libraries website was critical to finding sources. The web of science database was a fantastic internal resource. Being a student and being able to gain access journals such as Geochemica helped and were directly cited in my references. A challenge that I encountered was just simply getting used to navigating the data bases. It is a fantastic resource, but if one does not know how to properly use it, they could get lost. Practice makes perfect. Another challenge was the age of the resources that I initially found. While I enjoy hardcopies of text, many were impractical to use for the research. It was in this instance that having an online database came in to be very supportive.

13. Reflection Prompt 4

Reflecting back on your research experience, is there anything you would do differently? Are there any resources or services the library could offer to better support student research?

(100 words minimum) *

Yes, I admittedly procrastinated on designing the poster and putting all of my resources together. I also failed to correctly pronounce Noachian, this mistake was quickly pointed out by a professor during the assessment day. I would've liked to use more physical resources rather than just online ones. I think there is a flavor that physical texts bring into the mix that online resources can not. I personally do not know how the library could improve it. it has been fantastic. The citation assistance was also a great resource to have available. That streamlined the process of making my references.