

## CMSI 698 RESEARCH METHODS SEMINAR

Fall 2008

### Assignment 4 Overview of Proposal-related Papers

Assignment	Problems	Date Due
4	Analyze proposal-related papers	7 OCT 2008
Midterm	Annotated Bibliography	14 OCT 2008
5	Identify and analyze references for classmate's project	21 OCT 2008
6	Proposal draft	4 NOV 2008
Final	Research proposal and presentation	9 DEC 2008

Last week we agreed upon the topic for your term proposal. At that point, you had identified and analyzed just a few references. Once the topic was chosen, you were to research additional references on your topic. For this assignment, write a brief analysis of these papers and the others you have identified as being relevant to your proposal effort (you should have at least ten), following the guidelines we have been using in class.

To draw upon an example from building construction, by the end of the last class we had selected the site for your building project. This week's assignment can be compared to performing soil analysis of your home site to better understand the foundation upon which you will build. If you were remodeling or building an addition to your home, you would also examine the existing structure to see what you could use for your current project. You might rent a cherry picker to raise yourself up and do a view analysis to determine what the view will be from various parts of your new home and figure out how you want to orient your home.

In addition to analyzing your references as discrete works, look at how these papers fit together to form the complete landscape upon which you will build your proposal.

Be prepared to share your findings with the class.

You can either prepare a PowerPoint or similar presentation, or write directly on the white board to remind the class of your chosen topic then introduce us to the key issues you have uncovered in your reading and brief summaries/analyses of the most important papers you have identified (like we did in class before). Again, you want to show us how the papers fit together to form a foundation for your work.

Your annotated bibliography (take-home midterm!) is due next week. Think of this assignment as a draft of your midterm, an opportunity to solicit feedback from your classmates (and the instructor) before the midterm is due.

A PowerPoint presentation would include:

- Title slide with project title, your name, the class identifier, and the current date
  - Proposal slide succinctly describing
    - Your intended project (what you propose to do)
    - Motivation for the project (why do it)both in a nutshell -- short and to the point.
  - A related work diagram showing how the references are related to one another
- or -
- One slide for each category of reference or aspect of the project you are tackling

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- A final slide restating (even more briefly) the problem you plan to study and your approach to tackling the proposal

Whether presenting a related work diagram or the various aspects of the project, the idea is to convey the issues that must be addressed and the references related to each of those issues.

A PowerPoint presentation is not required. However, you should know enough about your topic to feel comfortable discussing this content. Remember that while you are expected to be prepared to discuss your work to date, you are not expected to have all the answers at this point! Feel free to present problems you face and ask the class for ideas.