Information Resources and Research Strategies

Purpose: Upon completion of this activity, students will be able to identify the different types of information resources used in college-level research and the type of information found in each. This DLA should take approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour to complete.

1. Using either a paper dictionary or an online dictionary such as dictionary.com, look up the following words. Write the definition below.
   a. Almanac
   b. Encyclopedia
   c. Biography
   d. Autobiography
   e. Atlas
   f. Dictionary
   g. Directory
   h. Gazetteer
   i. Periodical
   j. Textbook
   k. Documentary

2. Below, respond to this question for the following items: In which information resource would you find the following?
   a. When did the Revolutionary War begin and end? _________________________
   b. What is the latitude and longitude of Madrid, Spain? _______________________
   c. What is the proper pronunciation of the word “pottery”? _____________________
   d. What are the major museums in New York, New York? _____________________
   e. What is the population of Hawaii? ________________________________
   f. What was the score of last night’s NBA game? ____________________________
   g. What was Shakespeare’s early childhood like? ____________________________

3. Finally, in a short essay of a minimum of 300 words, respond to the following questions:
   a. What kinds of resources—paper or online—are better? Is there an advantage to using paper resources over online resources or online over paper?
   b. How will knowing how to use the resources above help me write my papers?
   c. Are there any resources not listed above that you think I should know about? If so, what are they and why are they important?
4. Attach your short essay to the back of this sheet, and then meet with an instructor or tutor. Ask the instructor/tutor (1) if your answers are correct and (2) if your paragraph is well-organized, if it has enough detail, and if it is complete.

**Attach a confirmation sheet or get a signature below:**

Instructor Signature:______________________________ Date: ______________________

Return this completed, signed sheet to your instructor.