Hermeneutics and Communications

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Professor

Dr. Jim Strecker

Assignment #1 – Core Essential Elements

1. Write a three-paragraph essay responding to the following question:

Select One (1) Core Essential Element from the Syllabus Outline:

a. Create a 350-word original discussion paper (with cited sources) during the week

of the residency. Be prepared to discuss and engage with other students during

the live sessions. Post this document in DIAL.

b. Professor will check for quality of content and word-count requirements. Grade

assigned will be Credit or No Credit (CR/NC).

Course Professor: Dr. James Strecker

Course Essential Elements

1. Reading Techniques for Scholarly Subject Research
2. Faith-Integrated Hermeneutics: Reading for Worldviews
3. Interpretive Methods in Social Research
4. Scholarly Writing Techniques/APA Style

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**Reading Techniques for Scholarly Subject Research**

Reading technique is an important issue in scholarly research due to the sheer volume of information. It is imperative to be systematic, focused and selective in acquiring relevant, informative and criteria targeted reading resources. Ringer’s (2022) journal article “We can’t read it all” discloses solutions pertaining to the research data. Ringer (2022) argues the following:

By focusing on validating an understanding of the corpus rather than explaining every piece of data, we allow space for close reading by the human reader, focus our contributions on the humanistic insight we can gain from our corpora, and make it possible to glean insight in a way that is feasible for the limited human reader while still having strategies to argue for (or against) certain interpretations.

The systematic progression recommended for effective reading includes the following steps: skimming or a cursory review of the contents headings, subheadings and conclusions and reference; scanning to determine if the discussions and references cited are substantive to the research issue or matter; intense reading involving taking notes, reviewing, making mental references; and, extensive reading of the relevant chapters and paragraphs to integrate prior and gained knowledge and apply critical thinking skills. (Yapp, 2023)

Interpretation, which is a critical component in reading, is often shaped by preconceptions and biases based upon the scholar’s own experiences, understandings, culture, and previously acquired knowledge. Inevitably the pre-understandings impact the interpretation of research information. Reflective awareness of the biases allows the scholar to communicate their preconceptions, creates opportunities to unlearn, relearn, broaden their knowledge, and expand their horizon of understanding. According to Hovey (2022) quoting from Gadamer (1989):

Hermeneutic inquiry means uncovering that which could be missed because the new and different understanding cannot be captured through methodological certainty. Philosophical hermeneutics advocates that subjectivity is not a block to greater objectivity but rather an opening to it. In the sense of having a distinct but negotiated point of view, subjectivity can be regarded as enabling a new and different understanding to emerge.

Although the interpretation of information is inherently subjective, research data, analysis, conclusions and solutions that emerge are subjected to on-going scrutiny for consistency, resilience, and the rigors of testing, to provide a comfortable level of validity.

Reading techniques for scholarly subject research vary in innovative elements; however, models suggests that efficiencies are gained by narrowing the field of the sources of information to a manageable group of potentially useful platforms including “specialized texts” (Castillo-Martinez, 2021), journals and papers which have credibility and meet the criteria of relevance to the area of study and the research subject question. The hermeneutic approach encourages engagement in dialogue with other scholars and server-users, incorporation of reflective spaces in which understanding and analysis of data may evolve, paying attention to alterity and paying close attention to phenomenon, to broaden the understanding and invite other points of view, perspectives, cultures and interpretations. “This idea of multiple readings of the same text is a strength of hermeneutics…”. (Wadhwani, 2023). Research reading may include the search and review of external informational data resources, additionally, examining and analyzing research findings from other scholars or internal sources, to provide feedback. Reading in scholarly research requires competency, may have multiple objectives, and correspondingly necessitate application of different techniques and degrees of focus, to achieve the required level of assimilation that supports the expansion of knowledge.

**References**

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Hovey, R. B., Vigouroux, M., Noushi, N., Pavate, V., & Amja, K. (2022). Applied philosophical hermeneutic research: the unmethod. International Journal of Qualitative Methods, 21, 16094069221101237. https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/16094069221101237

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