Diversity of Life (BIOL 105)
Literature Research Assignment

You have been in a library before and have done a search for literature before. This session is meant to show you methods specific for conducting literature research in biology at a university library.
Firstly, the objective is NOT to write a research paper. You will need to follow the instructions in this assignment carefully to be able to complete it successfully. You will also need to use and follow the guidelines for citations in biology closely. The successful completion of this assignment is a prerequisite for all other written assignments.

I. Objectives of this Task
- To learn how to make effective use of the AUC library to find scholarly articles on a given topic in biology.
- To learn how to do a keyword search
- To learn the difference between a research using the online databases of the AUC library and a simple internet search
- To recognize the difference between a scholarly source and a simple website.
- To learn how to find and locate books that are (physically) available at AUC
- To learn how to find and locate journals that are (physically) available at AUC
- To learn how to find out which journals or journal articles are available as full text from e-journals at AUC.
- To learn how to obtain journal articles, that are available as full-text from e-journals at AUC.
- To learn how to cite different sources correctly
II. Assignment
Conduct a literature research on the topic you received using the AUC library databases. You are not permitted to use google or other Internet search engines. Remember: Conducting a literature research costs time and patience.

Details
Using the AUC library databases, find a total of three direct quotations on the topic you have received using the AUC library databases. Each quotation should be between one sentence to a paragraph long.

1. One from a book that is physically available in the AUC library, but NOT from your textbook or any other introductory level textbooks)
2. One from an article found in a (scientific, peer reviewed) journal that is physically available in the AUC library
3. One from an article found in a (scientific, peer reviewed) e-journal, that gives you the full-text.

The following is required
1. Write the direct quotation of the text that is clearly and directly related to your topic
2. Citation of this source: Cite correctly after the quotation and in a list of literature cited
3. Your full path to find this source. (Which databases and keywords you used in sequence, including all those that did not give you results)

Do NOT write a research paper.

How to start your research
You need to have a basic understanding of your topic to be able to conduct any meaningful literature research. The topic you received has already been discussed in class and is also in your textbook. You should return to your textbook, if you don’t remember this topic. This way you will be better capable of finding synonyms and related topics for your research. But the textbook itself will not count as a scientific resource you found.

Use of the library
You will be given an introduction to the use of the library resources for research in biology by the library. The summary of this introduction with relevant links can be found at:
You will find a link to this site on the course menu of WebCT and under “Information” in the folder Lecture assignments.

How to cite
You will find information and links on the AUC library site, that will lead you to “Guidelines for Citations in Biology” for basic rules of citing in science papers, and with a link to the website “Guide to Harvard Style Referencing”. These documents and links are also in the WebCT folder “Written Assignments”.
Search path
This is a brief example of what details you should provide in your assignment. Your instructors must be able to follow your search step by step and reach exactly the same results.

Research topic: “continental drift”
AUC library: http://library.aucegypt.edu/
Search: Library catalog / by keyword
Type: “continental drift”
no entries
Search type: “plate tectonics”
no entries
Find articles with databases …see all data bases
Click “biology”
Click “ProQuest Science Journals”
Type: “continental drift”
Click “full text documents only”
Results: …….
Continue this way, listing all steps of your search until you reach a useful source out of which you quoted.

III. Submission form
Please submit a hardcopy to your instructor AND submit your assignment to turnitin.

IV. Due date
Thursday February 28th 2008 – before the exam.