Library Visit Report Assignment

This completed worksheet should be handed in along with Research Project Assignment Phase I: Preliminary Research Topic and Question at the beginning of class on the date specified on the syllabus.

Part I. to be completed during the tutorial meeting

General research topic:______________________________________________________________

Text/work from the studio that led me to this topic: _________________________________

How this topic is related to the theme of the course: _________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

Discipline/ type of research paper I would like to write: _______________________________

What I find most interesting/problematic/engaging about this topic: ____________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

List some potential ways of narrowing the scope of your topic to a manageable size for the paper:

1. 
2. 
3. 

List some specific questions for your initial research to help you make your topic more specific:

1. 
2. 
3.
Part II. the library visit

Before completing this step, you should consult Chodorow's *Writing a Successful Research Paper*, pp. 4-9, as well as the BU Library's online research guide: http://www.bu.edu/library/guide/guidetoresearch/

The purpose of this initial library visit is to do some preliminary research to help you better understand your topic and to get a sense of the available resources pertaining to it. This research should help you to narrow the scope and further frame or specify your topic with an eye to available resources. (In some cases you may find that there is simply not adequate available literature to approach your topic in the way you wanted. In other cases, you will realize that there is simply *way too much* literature on your topic. Both are reasons to further revise the scope or reframe your research topic.)

A good place to start your search is the course guide page created specifically for the studio: http://www.bu.edu/library/guide/khc-studio/

You should also take a moment to *speak with a research librarian*. They can help point you to more specific sources pertaining to your topic and are there to help you in the research process. Feel free to show them this worksheet.

Your preliminary research should yield *at least 6 potential sources, including at least one hard-copy holding* from the library (the ability to quickly find a book in the library stacks is one skill you should develop as a result of the library visit). After speaking with a research librarian and conducting this preliminary research (finding your sources and reading or scanning them for relevant information), answer the following questions in a few sentences:

How have you decided to narrow the scope of the topic (from your list above, or in other ways)?

_________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Provide answers to each of your initial questions (listed above) and briefly explain how each helped you to refine your research topic:

Question 1:  

_________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Question 2:  

_________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Question 3:  

_________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Part III. in-class report

In class, be prepared to share a brief, informal "coming of age story" and "status report" on your research topic. You should answer questions such as the following: Where did you start? How did your idea for a topic change and develop? What are some of the most useful sources you found? How did you narrow the scope of the topic to make it more manageable? What initial questions were you able to answer during your library visit? Where are you at now with your topic? What new questions have arisen from your preliminary research? What remains to be done? What is your next step?