

**10.1** *Sample assignment used at De Montfort University with 2nd year Biomedical Sciences students*

## Library and Information Skills 2009–10

**HAND-IN:** Friday 20 November, 12 noon, to the Student Advice Centre

**TUTOR'S NAME:**

This assignment tests the following areas of skills and knowledge:

- searching skills, especially in relation to databases
- ability to select appropriate keywords, sources and resources
- referencing and bibliography.

You are required to do the following:

1. Select one of the following topics and include this on your submission:
  - a. What are the dangers of prescription-only medicine and addiction?
  - b. Can acupuncture cure migraines?
  - c. What can be done to combat the high level of heart disease in the UK?
  - d. Should we pay more for health care?
2. Select appropriate keywords and sources (such as databases, web resources, etc.) that you will use to research your topic and present these either as lists or mind maps. (10 marks) Write a short summary of why you chose the keywords selected and why you chose to search the sources you have identified (maximum 150 words). (25 marks)
3. Produce a critical annotated bibliography of 10–15 items (books, journal articles, websites and any other sources covered in the library sessions) about your topic. Each item in the bibliography should be correctly cited in the Harvard style and annotated to show why you have selected it. (40 marks)
4. Write a short summary of how effective the sources and keywords you identified were in producing appropriate results and whether you needed to amend your search (maximum 150 words). (25 marks)

Your keywords and sources used should be appropriate to the chosen topic and each item on your bibliography should be:

- current and relevant to your topic
- referenced correctly according to the Harvard system.

All assignments need to be word-processed and handed in to the Student Advice Centre by 12 noon on Friday 20 November. **Late assignments will be penalized.**

### 5. Support material

The following library publications will help you with your assignment:

*How to Find Journals and Journal Articles*

*How to Undertake a Literature Search and Review*

*The Harvard System of Referencing.*

These are all available both in print from the library and online at:  
[www.library.dmu.ac.uk/Support/Guides](http://www.library.dmu.ac.uk/Support/Guides).