

June 9, 2008 AM

Today is the first day of our summer research. We constructed a timeline, which includes modifying the church addresses and transferring them to a new data set by the end of this week. We were using Yellowpages.com to find the addresses; however, the information found was not accurate or up-to-date. Now, we're using the actual telephone book to find the addresses and telephone numbers of the churches.

June 9, 2008 PM

I continued looking up telephone numbers and addresses for the list of churches I have. I should be through by mid-day tomorrow. After I finish my list, I will help find the addresses and telephone numbers of the churches on the remaining lists.

June 10, 2008 AM

Today I continued my work from yesterday.

June 10, 2008 PM

I finished looking up the addresses and telephone numbers of the churches on my list. Now I will help the rest of the research team with their lists.

June 11, 2008 AM

Today we reviewed the grant proposal and each team members' survey to determine what questions we want the research to answer and what our expectations are. We broke down each section of the surveys and formed questions from each. For example, we broke the demographics sections down into 5 subsections – race, gender, education level, income level, and age. For each subsection we compiled a list of questions/hypotheses that we hope the research will answer. This procedure was done for every section of both surveys. We also created additional questions to add to my survey. We will present the new survey and the list of questions/hypotheses to Dr. Fahmy, who will tell us what analysis we need to do in Statistical Analysis Software (SAS) in order to pull the data we need.

June 11, 2008 PM

I continued creating a list of questions/hypotheses for the remaining sections of my survey.

June 12, 2008

No Team Meeting

June 13, 2008

Today I finalized my list of questions/hypotheses that I hope the research will answer.

June 16, 2008 AM

Today we made a list of tasks we hope to complete by the end of this week, which includes finishing the addresses and telephone numbers, testing and launching the organizational survey, creating a cover letter for the survey, and meeting with Dr. Fahmy. I also created a powerpoint presentation out of the questions/hypotheses we hope the research will answer to show Dr. Fahmy.

June 16, 2008 PM

I continued to work on the powerpoint. I have a few more sections to complete, which I will finish tomorrow.

June 17, 2008 AM

Today I finished my powerpoint slides. I reviewed them for errors and/or additions and corrections. I will present it to Dr. Fahmy Thursday.

June 17, 2008 PM

I started working on the addresses for Madison County.

June 18, 2008 AM

Today I continued looking up addresses for the churches in Madison County. I looked over my powerpoint slides again, and I performed a mock presentation for Ms. Streeter. I printed copies of my slides, leaving room next to each slide on the printout for Dr. Fahmy and the research team to jot down questions/comments as I present.

June 18, 2008 PM

I continued looking up the addresses for Madison County.

June 19, 2008 AM

Today Dr. Fahmy came by to listen to and give feedback on the research team's presentations. Tylor presented his survey and hypotheses first and received good feedback from Dr. Fahmy. I presented next, and I too received good feedback. I began by stating the purpose of my survey and discussed the data I hope the questions in my survey will answer. He made suggestions about potential changes to the survey that I plan to implement. For example, one of my questions on the survey is, "What was your zip code during the Hurricane Katrina recovery effort?" The respondent is given 6 text boxes to type in their zip code for 1)before Katrina, 2)2 weeks after, 3)1 month after, 4)6 months after, 5)1 year after, and 6)currently. Dr. Fahmy suggested that we use a pull down list of cities in Louisiana and Mississippi instead since most people cannot easily remember past zip codes. This will be more intensive and will require more work, but it is worth the time and effort to obtain the data we need

I also told Dr. Fahmy things I hope the research will answer from the questions I have, and he believes we can get this data. He also suggested that I use the chi squared method for my last three questions. His final and most beneficial suggestion he gave me was to narrow my search to one or two specific areas and analyze all the data in that area. Since I have a degree in economics with an accounting concentration, I decided to focus on the income and education levels of the evacuees. I will analyze things such as were low-income evacuees given more assistance than other income level evacuees? Were there more Black low-income evacuees than White? Did the lowest-income evacuee also have the lowest education level? I also discovered more limitations to our research. Having a list of those limitations will help improve it for future research. Overall, he really enjoyed our presentations. I believe our research is on the right track!

June 20, 2008 AM

Today I focused on making changes to my survey using the suggestions from Dr. Fahmy. I also worked on the Madison County list of church addresses.

June 20, 2008 PM

I finished the list for Madison County! We will begin mailing the surveys first thing next week.

June 23, 2008 AM

Today we made of list of tasks for the week, which includes finishing the cover letter, validating IDs on survey, testing label procedures, testing the survey, updating the surveys using Dr. Fahmy's suggestions, and starting on the research paper. I chose to update my survey today. (Update: We decided to validate the IDs after receiving the data by checking the ID number entered.)

June 23, 2008 PM

I finished updating the survey to include the changes Dr. Fahmy suggested. I also brainstormed on possible introductions for my research paper. Since I won't have any data to analyze, I am unsure of what to discuss within my paper.

June 24, 2008 AM

Today I looked for articles or studies on Hurricane Katrina to use as a backdrop for my research paper. I did not find anything on JSTOR, but I found a lot of articles on Google Scholar. I even found a book entitled, *Come Hell or High Water* by Michael Eric Dyson, and it had a lot of interesting facts about the income and education levels of people in the Mississippi and Louisiana areas before Hurricane Katrina. I spent the majority of the day reading excerpts from the book. I think I'll use the author's reference listing to find the original source and quote the information in my research paper. I don't really have a starting point for my paper yet, so I'll construct a rough outline later today.

June 24, 2008 PM

I compiled a rough draft for the outline of my research paper. I do not have a topic, but I have an idea of what I want to include in the research paper. I will show it to the research team tomorrow for their input.

June 25, 2008

Today I came in with more ideas and thoughts about the research paper outline than I had yesterday! My tentative topic is *The Katrina Effect: The Socioeconomic Impact of the Government VS Faith-based Organizations on the Hurricane Katrina Relief Effort in the Jackson Metro Area*. Having this topic in mind, I created a detailed outline of what I will discuss in my research paper.

June 25, 2008 PM

I found 2 really good articles today that I'm pretty sure I'll use in my research paper. One of the articles has a table from the US Census Bureau that has the income data and poverty ranking for Louisiana and Mississippi. The other article details the

role of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) in the Hurricane Katrina relief effort, which I may use in my research paper. I started on my annotated bibliography based on the articles I have read so far.

June 26, 2008 AM

Tasks for the research team today were to work on the annotated bibliography, continue literature searches, check with the library about articles that aren't available to registered users, check with the business office about postage issues, proof cover letter, print labels, continue data management, and ask Dr. Fahmy about the statistical model again. From these tasks, I will focus on the literature search and the annotated bibliography.

June 26, 2008 PM

I continued the literature search. As I found articles that I found useful, I put them in my annotated bibliography.

June 27, 2008 AM

Today I continued the literature search and was very successful in finding articles to use in my research paper. I spent a great deal of time reading and ciphering through the articles; however, it was time well spent. I also got a binder to put a copy of the articles I find in it, so I will have an easy reference point.

June 30, 2008 AM

Today I researched previous studies about the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. (As expected, there was no data channeling the relief efforts of faith-based organizations, which is why our research will significantly add to the body of knowledge that is currently available.) After reading and analyzing a few articles, I decided to start on the introduction to my research paper. It is still in the draft stage, but I expect to be done with the introduction by tomorrow.

June 30, 2008 PM

I continued to work on the introduction to my research paper. I found more background information to include in it that I think will be valuable to the reader.

July 1, 2008 AM

Today I looked at some scholarly journals that have research papers dealing with something similar to our research. I looked at how they formatted their research papers, how they introduced their topic, and summarized their findings. I gained a lot of insight from looking at the journals. Now I feel better prepared to write my paper in a publishable way.

July 2, 2008 AM

Today I continued working on my research paper. I'm at a standstill on the introduction, so I decided to work on the methodology section of the paper. In this section, I discuss the purpose of the organizational and individual surveys, the types of questions asked, and what results we hope to gain.

July 3, 2008 AM

Today we tested the organizational survey to see if there is anything else that needed to be corrected before it is launched. We found some tweaks that we worked out. We also found some grammatical errors and other minor things; we will test it again soon.

July 4, 2008

INDEPENDENCE DAY

July 7, 2008 AM/PM

The research team did not meet collectively today; however, I continued gathering information for my research paper. While reading an article that is relevant to my topic, I found another article that has a lot of information that I will reference. Most of the articles I've found so far are critical of government relief organizations, such as FEMA. While this particular article is critical of FEMA too, it supplies reasonable explanations for their slow response. This article may balance out my research paper so that it won't be one-sided.

July 8, 2008 AM/PM

The research team did not meet today either, but we were instructed to continue working on the research paper. I plan to have my research paper done by Friday. With this date in mind, I continued to read and work on my paper. I also sent my draft thus far to Ms. Streeter to review on Blackboard.

July 9, 2008 AM

Today I received feedback from Ms. Streeter regarding my research paper thus far. She gave me valuable suggestions that I think will greatly improve the quality of my research paper. I made the suggested changes, and continued to write my research paper.

July 9, 2008 PM

I'm continuing to write and revise my research paper. I focused a lot on the format of my paper, including the header titles and subtitles. Even though today is the last official day of the research, I'm not satisfied with my paper as it is right now. Therefore, I will continue to revise it over the weekend.

July 11, 2008 AM

I will continue to correspond with Ms. Streeter over the internet until the paper is completed. The final draft is due by August 1, 2008.