Exercise walk-through

5.3
Inquiry: Gathering Information

GAC Study and Communication Skills

Method — Key knowledge: access and relevance limit a claim

A **search log** records the query, tool, date and candidate/decision. A search rank or title is a lead, not proof. An **abstract** may report a result without giving every method detail. Record exactly what you accessed and what remains unknown. **Attribution** connects an idea or quotation to the source actually read. Keep exact copied wording separate from your own summary. Authority, relevant outcome, method and access all matter. Never invent a bibliographic detail or use these fictional cards as real references.

Method — Source A: proposal and task record

The fictional materials team asks about label layout and four-item sorting accuracy. Its search for "sorting" mostly returns computer algorithms. A narrower query is "instruction label alignment paper sorting". The log records the query, tool, date and that two candidates need inspection.

Teaching card M gives a named author, Lin Rao, a title, "Labels and Location Choices", and the year 2024. Only its abstract is available: twelve adults made fewer location-choice errors with separated labels in one task. It supplies no numerical error totals or full assignment procedure. Card N is an undated supplier advertisement, "Our labels are the best", with no participant task or measured outcome. Both cards are invented classroom materials.

Method — Source B: draft and current evidence

A draft source table calls M a 2025 journal trial with forty children and gives invented error percentages. It calls N an independent accuracy experiment. No such details were read or supplied.

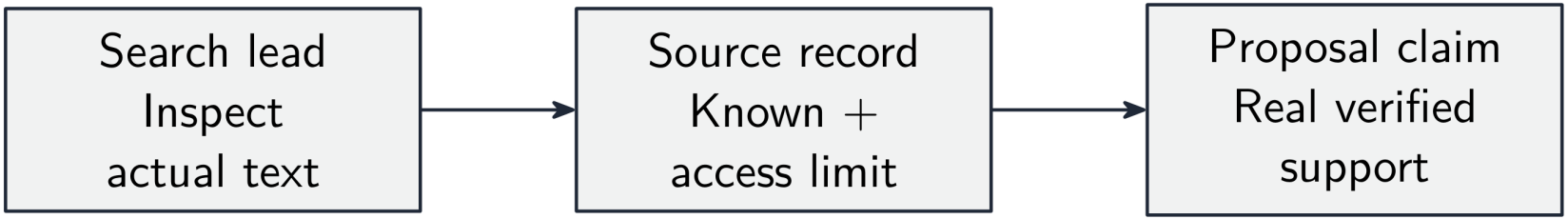
Mei proposes retaining M as a limited candidate relevant to layout while seeking full methods or a more suitable source. She proposes recording N as promotion rather than evidence of measured accuracy. For an actual proposal the team must replace the teaching cards with real accessible sources it has read.

Method — Worked example: a traceable limited record beats invented detail

Known: M's abstract describes twelve adults and a location-choice task; full methods and numerical totals are unavailable. Why keep an access note? It prevents the draft from treating unseen methods as verified. Record the supplied title, author and 2024 date and describe only the abstract's actual claim.
The task differs from class sorting, and N supplies no measured outcome. Refine search terms, inspect accessible real sources, and separate recommendations from findings. Do not turn either fictional card into a real published citation or fill unknown totals with convenient numbers.

Method — Worked example: a traceable limited record beats invented detail

Known: M's abstract describes twelve adults and a location-choice task; full methods and numerical totals are...



A source lead becomes a limited record before any real proposal claim is made.

Exercises 2.1·2.3

2.1 State M’s supplied participant group and the part of the source actually accessible.[2]

2.2 Name TWO details in the draft table that are contradicted by the supplied card. [2]

2.3 Give THREE fields a traceable search or source record should retain from this case.[3]

Exercises 2.1·2.3

2.1 State M's supplied participant group and the part of the source actually accessible.[2]

2.1 Twelve adults; the abstract only.

2.2 Name TWO details in the draft table that are contradicted by the supplied card. [2]

2.2 Award B1 each for two: 2025 instead of 2024; forty instead of twelve; children instead of adults. Invented percentages are unsupported rather than contradicted by a supplied numerical result.

2.3 Give THREE fields a traceable search or source record should retain from this case.[3]

2.3 Award B1 each for three distinct relevant fields: query/tool/date; candidate title; named author/year; accessed part; outcome/task; access or relevance limit; inclusion/rejection reason. Do not invent a journal or URL.

Exercises 2.4·3.1

2.4 Explain a relevance limit for M, an evidence problem with N and one useful next search action. [3]

3.1 Evaluate THREE proposals: “Use search rank as proof”; “Invent percentages because the abstract sounds positive”; “Publish these teaching cards as real references”. Give a correction and reason for each. [6]

Exercises 2.4·3.1

2.4 Explain a relevance limit for M, an evidence problem with N and one useful next search action. [3]

2.4 Adult location-choice task differs from class four-item sorting. N is promotion without a participant accuracy outcome. Refine contextual terms and inspect accessible real methods/sources.

3.1 Evaluate THREE proposals: “Use search rank as proof”; “Invent percentages because the abstract sounds positive”; “Publish these teaching cards as real references”. Give a correction and reason for each. [6]

3.1 Award 2 per proposal: correction, reason. Inspect relevance/evidence: rank is not a measured result. State totals unknown: no numerical errors were supplied. Use real read/verifiable sources: the cards are explicitly fictional and cannot substantiate an actual published citation.

Exercise 3.2

3.2 Write an 80–110 word source-selection note. Compare M and N, retain access and task limits, correct invented details and propose a traceable real-source search before an actual proposal. [8]

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3.2 Local analytic rubric, 8 × B1: M's supplied group/date corrected; abstract-only access; unknown numerical/method details; different-task limit; N's promotion/outcome distinction; fictional-card boundary; traceable real-source next search; coherent truthful 80–110 word response. Example: "Card M is a limited candidate because its abstract describes separated labels and location-choice errors among twelve adults. It is dated 2024, not 2025, and supplies neither numerical totals nor the full assignment procedure. Its task also differs from our class sorting question. Card N is an undated advertisement without a measured accuracy outcome, so I will not treat it as an independent experiment. Both cards are fictional teaching materials. For an actual proposal I will refine the search around label alignment and paper sorting, inspect accessible real sources and record bibliographic details, accessed sections, measured outcomes and limits before making a claim."