INFO 272. Qualitative Research Methods for Information Systems and Management
Fall 2012

Assignment 1 (15%) – Due 10/9/12 (submit in class)

Field Notes. For the first half of the term we will be collaborating as a class on a study of how people interact with ‘technology’ in public places. You’ll be keeping a field notebook. For this assignment, you will submit your typed and printed fieldnotes along with a one page analysis.

Your fieldnotes should be ‘full fieldnotes’ (not ‘jottings’) – see Lofland and Lofland for the distinction.

The one-page analysis should include:

1) a couple of main findings from your observations about ‘how people engage with technologies in public places’
2) should refer, in some form, to methodological issues raised in lectures and readings in the first part of the course – it may help to actually reference or quote the reading.
3) should demonstrate your ability to think ‘iteratively’ - what does your collected data suggest to you about how to direct your research efforts if you were to continue this project?

I will also be evaluating the notes themselves for how rich and extensive they are and how you’ve managed to generate (and distinguish between) descriptive and interpretive material.