

Bhu ATH 613 week 3 Beverly Elliott

One of my challenges that I found on my recent trip to the library is that I somehow feel so overwhelmed. Before I even begin to focus in on finding scholarly sources, I have to settle into ‘where do I begin.’ So I always find that I start at the librarians’ desk for help. Of course I find you must choose the right library to begin with. Being out of school for so many years, I always feel at a disadvantage. I have to find even the right questions to ask if I want to be steered in the right direction for my research. When I visited my local library, it was certainly a friendly atmosphere and the people seemed to have a good understanding of what it was that I was looking for. However besides the card catalog, which it was necessary to be specific, I began to look through Galileo which was a source more familiar to me. The

librarian was knowledgeable in directing me to religious source books, but she let me know that what I would find would be very limited. She was right. There were only two short aisles of books relative to religious studies. They ranged from 'how do' and books by great authors such as T.D. Jakes, Joel Olsten, and Paul Tillich. Other books related to many different religions, and as I looked down the line it became less religious and more political. She did refer me to the larger library in the county that had research staff on site to help with a wider range of research topics. She warned that such sources from for example, periodicals more than likely would not be on site at that specific library. My visit to a religious based library had a lot more informational sources for my perusal. Both librarians had a wealth of knowledge that made it easy to maneuver through and in the direction of scholarly sources. I believe by the

time I am finish with this project that I will be able to help someone else move through the difficulties of those things that seem so overwhelming. I believe when you get a true understanding of how a system works and you know just what you are looking up, you will build up that confidence to do the assignment and I strongly believe that is half of the battle. My suggestion that is valuable to me is to get a clear understanding of what needs to be accomplished, then you must get a written plan to achieve your goals, and you must be committed, consistent and systematic. Research is hard work, as it involves mental processing and evaluation, but the results can be rewarding.