

Connecticut College

Digital Commons @ Connecticut College

Library Research Prize

Information Services

2022

Runner up entry for 2022

Junhyung Han
Connecticut College

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.conncoll.edu/libprize>

Recommended Citation

Han, Junhyung, "Runner up entry for 2022" (2022). *Library Research Prize*. 16.
<https://digitalcommons.conncoll.edu/libprize/16>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Information Services at Digital Commons @ Connecticut College. It has been accepted for inclusion in Library Research Prize by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Connecticut College. For more information, please contact bpancier@conncoll.edu.
The views expressed in this paper are solely those of the author.

CODE

Name

Junhyung Han

Title of Paper

Incompatibility of Millikan's Functional Analysis with Deism

Class Year

Sophomore

Date Research Undertaken

Fall 2021

Citation Style Used

APA Style (7th Edition)

Affiliated Course

Darwin and Evolutionary Thought (PHI 320)

Faculty Name

Professor Derek Turner

Student Major

Philosophy & Neuroscience double-major

Narrative Questions

- 1. Describe how you came to choose your topic, specifically noting any pre-research that you did. What sources did you use in this pre-research? To what extent did you consult with librarians, faculty, or others? How did this pre-research lead you to your topic?**

I was inspired to research Ruth Millikan's notion of "proper function" after I read an entry named "Teleological Notions in Biology" from Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, a reliable encyclopedia that Professor Derek Turner strongly recommended as a pre-research source. To learn about Millikan further, I investigated the bibliography section of the entry and found her article "In Defense of Proper Functions" in the Philosophy of Science journal. Then, I looked it up on OneSearch, found a link to JSTOR Arts and Sciences where the full text of the article was available, ascertained its trustworthiness, and then started reading it. After I realized that the article was based on her book named Language, thought, and other biological categories..., I searched it on OneSearch to see whether the book was available in Shain Library. It was not there, but I could use the Interlibrary Loan service and borrow the book from Trinity College. I queried a librarian at the circulation desk about how I can use the service and borrowed the book from Trinity College. Also, since I wanted to make a copy of the first two chapters of the book, I learned from Librarian Andrew Lopez how to crop and resize scanned PDF files using Adobe Acrobat. I read through the resulting copy of the book, brainstormed ideas based on its content, discussed the validity of the ideas with Professor Turner, and buckled down to the research on the topic of choice.

- 2. Describe your process of finding information for your project. Note specifically the tools you used to undertake your research, as well as the specific search strategies you used within these tools. (Note: "Ebsco," being an umbrella vendor, is not a specific enough response when identifying tools; listing the "library database" is also an unacceptably vague answer. Specific tools include JSTOR, America: History & Life, Web of Science, etc., along with OneSearch, the new library system.)**

I thought that, based on the chapters of the book I borrowed, Millikan's definition of biological function may not work when we posit a certain scenario of abiogenesis and deism. Since philosophy of biology is an interdisciplinary field wherein expertise in both biology and philosophy is required, I had to rely on a wide range of sources from scientific journals like Science and Nature to less common sources like a religious podcast and an infographic. I did the primary search on Google, for I intended to look up information also from the sources that are not available on OneSearch. When I needed to cite precise scientific information about abiogenesis and the definition of life, I mostly relied on peer-reviewed journal articles by selecting the "Peer Reviewed" categories on OneSearch. When I need to cite the scientific concepts that are expounded to be made more accessible to a wider range of

CODE

people by use of analogies and infographics, I took greater care and thoroughly assessed whether they are from reliable websites as well as looking up the authors' names to see whether they are/were affiliated to trustworthy institutions. Finally, I increased the flexibility of the range of sources when it comes to searching philosophical claims: I referred to a podcast named Simply Put, a Wikisource text of *The Descent of Man*, which is based on a book published by D. Appleton & Company, and the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, the aforementioned reliable online encyclopedia.

3. Describe your process of evaluating the resources you found. How did you make decisions about which resources you would use, and which you wouldn't? What kinds of questions did you ask yourself about resources in order to determine whether they were worthy of inclusion?

In the case of journal articles, the fact that they are peer-reviewed guarantees their integrity to a certain extent, but I wanted to go further and determine whether they are from renowned, erudite experts whose ideas and publications are generally considered insightful and influential. To do so, I looked up their number of citations — for instance, the article I used for pre-research was cited 387 times, by looking at which I could ascertain its reliability. In addition, I Googled the authors' names and checked whether they are, for instance, faculties or researchers of reputable academic institutions like the Georgia Institute of Technology and National Science Foundation. Readers of my paper may question the integrity of sources, some of which include a Wikisource entry, an infographic, and a podcast. However, I thoroughly inspected such sources and their authors and publishers in order not to introduce any bias to my research. For instance, the infographic I cited was illustrated by Matthew Twombly, a prolific illustrator who specializes in scientific infographics. His career as a Graphics Editor and a Graphic Design Specialist at National Geographic Magazine seemed to imply his adeptness at illustrating. Furthermore, the fact that the infographic was for an article from *Scientific American* by Jack Szostak, a professor at Harvard Medical School, seemed to corroborate its integrity. As shown through the example, I did not hesitate to undertake the process of evaluation to sift out the sources that are inadequate for the research paper.