The purpose of this document is to illustrate the process Tasha went through as she solved a complex search challenge. Seeing examples of how others solved search challenges can be beneficial; you may gather insights you can use when solving your own challenges.

1. What is your research goal? What will you do with the information?

I'd like to help my colleague who posted this on Google+. I wonder how hard this book will be to find.

2. What questions do you need to answer in order to achieve your research goal?

- What is the name of the book he is describing?

3. What queries did you type in during your research (either to Google Search or databases/sites you discovered)?

- My colleague clearly pulled his description from memory, and therefore the words he used are filtered through personal interpretation (rather than being in a title), so I have to decide how to work with them. I start by considering the difference between soft and firm search terms—firm terms are likely to appear on almost any page that talks about the information I want, whereas soft search terms are not guaranteed to be on the pages for which I am looking. I want to identify and use firm search terms, then incorporate soft ones as needed.
- I've been given the following elements:
4. What specific websites did you use when gathering information? How did you know they were credible?

Books.google.com

- In retrospect, it is a bit funny that I used the term [novel] when searching Google Books. Most novels do not directly have that word in them. But, it so happened that I found a book that reviewed other books. My good luck.
- I did not need a credible answer in the traditional sense. I found the book. Reading it to confirm that it was the one my colleague wanted would have been the long way to the answer. Instead, I found a review with a plot summary that sounded like a match, and finally, my colleague recognized the title.

5. What was your final result?

_The Almanac of the Dead_—confirmed as correct by my colleague.

6. What did you learn while conducting your research?

The key to finding what I want can often be to look at all the information I have and consider which terms are going to be on any page that talks about my subject. I pay special attention to terms that will be phrased more-or-less consistently across multiple sources of information. That is one way to “Use contextually appropriate language.”
7. What Advanced Power Searching skills did you apply during this exercise?

- Context terms - type of source, databases, "how to" [describe the type of source and would appear on the page]
- Using contextually appropriate language
- Matching resources to kind of search
- Using your social networks (question was asked and verified via Google+, a social network)
- Generalization and specialization