

My research mainly involved visiting archives and analyzing collected data. Subsequently, the process was mostly independent despite several communications involved when meeting the staff of the archives and libraries I visited. Since this experience was largely irrelevant to the research report, I would like to discuss it through this reflection.

As my research process did not require any equipment or interview sessions, my schedule was generally flexible. There were no strict time constrictions, other than travelling time to the archives and libraries. Since South Korea is my home country, my familiarity with the culture and navigation through public transportations also functioned as an advantage. However, as I have spent most of my adolescence in Toronto, I also realized the knowledge I lacked in the process. For instance, the South Korean universities rarely have a librarian in their libraries. In fact, the students and the library system rely on digital systems to search books and documents without getting the aid of the librarians when conducting research unlike University of Toronto. This was surprising since the digital system was unable to search anything but the title and the author of the book. It lacked the ability to access the knowledge librarians possess of the books' contents within the designated institution. Moreover, the fact that the students working in the libraries whenever I visited didn't understand the concept of the 'librarian' when asked were surprising. Since these were two of the top universities in South Korea that the students get in through an arduous entrance exam, I was surprised by the fact that these students did not understand the concept of a 'librarian'. Furthermore, In the case of Seoul National University, the students working in the library was not aware of the librarian present in another floor – revealing the lack of connection among different bureaus even within the same institution.

Despite the initial confusion at this experience, it eventually deepened my understanding of this structure in South Korea, which undoubtedly, but indirectly affected my research. At the start of the research process, my plan involved more socialization with the people I meet in these libraries for additional information that I may not be able to gain in first glance of the books. Yet, the experience made me realize that I must rely more on my own comprehension abilities to discern which data to focus on and how to frame my research. As such, the research involved more self-discipline and guidance than I assumed. Unlike my belief that I would be able to gain help from the librarians to collect appropriate data for my research, I had to solely rely on my own understanding of the subject to discern appropriate data while eliminating information that diverted the focus from my research questions.

This experience overall had connections to leadership skills like self-discipline. I believe that a leader who leads other people should be able to lead themselves first and foremost. This would require various management skills, including tasks and time. As I was required to schedule the visits to libraries appropriately, especially due to the amount of time processing through one book required, the process increased my overall management skills. However, it also challenged my time management skill due to the sheer quantity of information. Despite the similarity between my archival studies and previous research conducted for my undergraduate essays, the summer research required more meticulous attention to the details. As I was not seeking for proof based on a certain framework taught in class but required to find the flaws based on the collected data, the analyses required more time than planned. The unexpected consumption of time created irregularities in my research, which challenged the usual process I utilize to plan out my tasks.

On the other hand, it was necessary for me to review court decisions to assert other pieces of information. Although I did not include all court decisions in detail within my research report, these all played a role in understanding the issues I found within the legal regulatory regimes. The analysis of these court decisions underlies many of the statements I make within the report, which means that the process was vital in my analysis of the legal issues despite the lack of visibility of its function. However, collecting these case laws were more difficult than I assumed. For example, accessing the Supreme Court Library of Korea to search for relevant court decisions was relatively easy due to clear instructions and expectations on searching through the archive. Yet, getting a copy of these court decisions for analysis took more time than expected. Unlike the notice in the official government website, which notes that the response from the individual courts will be returned within a week; many took several weeks to respond. These responses included both approval and rejection of copy provisions. Thus, I had to change plans according to the rejected copies of data and the delay in accruing them. A few of these approvals were sent just a few days before the end of August. Since this approval only contains the information required to send the minimal charge to request a copy, I was unable to get these copies of court decisions for analysis. As a result, I was able to acquire only 10 court decision copies to complete my research – a big difference from my initial plan to analyze 24 case laws based on my visit to the Supreme Court Library.

Consequently, I modified my research according to the changes in my data accumulation. The flexibility I was required to perform due to these unexpected challenges is what I consider a leadership skill as well. Many unexpected challenges can arise as a leader, especially when involving people who may all have individual challenges in any situation. For example, I had to navigate certain personal issues within and after the research period. The issue was foreseen to a minimal level, but unforeseen in terms of the gravity that affected my research process. The ability to handle these cases for myself was necessary to be cultivated on a case-by-case basis, depending on the circumstances surrounding the issue. The resilience and flexibility I possessed were tested for this reason, but I was able to overcome the challenges the best I could.

I am, generally, an independent individual. I have always preferred solitude even for academic and professional tasks despite the understanding that external help is sometimes necessary. This summer research process made me realize in what ways these external helps are beneficial. For example, when I faced the challenge of not having access to librarians in the university libraries of South Korea, I was able to talk to my research advisor and gain more understanding of the situation despite my research advisor not having much knowledge of the cultural context within the country. On the other hand, I also gained help from my family who has more understanding of the South Korean context and cultures despite their lack of knowledge about my research. These unexpected aids throughout the research process became an invaluable help for the unexpected challenges.

The summer research process was not as straightforward as I assumed in the planning stage. It was not as much of a solitary process either. In fact, the summer research involved more socialization, collaboration, and resilience than I assumed to be required for archival studies. The complications that arose in both academic and personal levels made me to become more self-aware of the flaws I must deal with, as well as the strength I possessed in terms of managing the

challenges. The skills I utilized to deal with the challenges may seem to be dedicated to personal growth, but I realized that applying them in a different context has a potential to be calibrated for leadership as well.