

Illinois Wesleyan University
Anthropologists in the Library: Helping Librarians Support Student Success

Information Literacy Research Questionnaire¹

Directions: Read the following multiple choice items carefully and even if you think that more than one answer might be correct, always select the BEST answer. Please use the scantron form to record your answers.

1. You need to research an aspect of the topic “Hispanic children and public schools.” Which one of the following would be an appropriate research question?
 - a. Does bilingual education help children attending public schools?
 - b. Should all school children receive free lunches?
 - c. Should states require standardized testing for religious schools?
 - d. Do labor unions help teachers keep their jobs?

2. You are writing a paper for your ecology class. You first need information defining the term “watershed.” What is your best choice for getting some brief background information?
 - a. Search for “watershed” in the library’s online catalog.
 - b. Find journal articles about “watershed.”
 - c. Look up “watershed” in a general reference source like an encyclopedia.
 - d. Type “watershed” in an Internet search engine.

3. Which group of keywords best describes the information needed for the following assignment: “Prepare a presentation about the gains achieved by women in the 1980s.”
 - a. Presentation, women, gains
 - b. Women, gains, achieved
 - c. Women, gains, 1980s
 - d. Gains, achieved, 1980s

4. Which of the following is **not** a secondary source?
 - a. Encyclopedia article
 - b. Letters
 - c. Newspaper article reporting about a research study
 - d. Biography

5. The Ames Library’s online catalog contains:
 - a. Information about books, videos and other non-print items in the library.

¹ The IWU information literacy test is a modified version of the Information Competency Exam developed by the Bay Area Community Colleges Information Competency Assessment Project. For more information on this project, see <http://www.topsy.org>.

- b. The complete text of all the journal articles in the library.
 - c. Information about the college's courses.
 - d. Answers a. and b.
6. For your health class, you're writing a 5 page paper on the benefits of aerobic exercise. What would be the best approach to researching this topic?
- a. Get an overview about the topic from a commercial Web site, then get recent/more specific information from magazine articles.
 - b. Get scholarly journal articles for recent/very specific information about the topic.
 - c. Get an overview of the topic from a current encyclopedia on exercise and health, then get more recent/more specific information from scholarly journal articles.
 - d. Get an overview of the topic from a health encyclopedia.
7. As you collect sources for your project it is critical to:
- a. Evaluate each source for accuracy and currency
 - b. Print the full-text of the source
 - c. Record all bibliographic information for your Works Cited list
 - d. Answers a. and b.
 - e. Answers a. and c.
8. Paraphrasing is the process of:
- a. Summarizing the author's ideas in your own words
 - b. Selecting paragraphs to use in your paper
 - c. Changing a phrase to mean something else
 - d. None of the above
9. You are writing a report on automobile safety and tires. You have found several sources. Which would be the most likely to contain the most balanced discussion of this topic?
- a. A blog from an automobile association website
 - b. Survey from a tire manufacturer
 - c. Article in a popular automobile magazine
 - d. Article in a consumer rights journal
10. When evaluating sources of information, the date of the source:
- a. Is important depending on the topic
 - b. Should never be more than ten years old
 - c. Is only critical in medical research
 - d. Usually not important if it is a reliable source

11. To determine if an author is qualified to write on a specific topic, which of the following would most likely provide trustworthy information about the author's qualifications:

- a. Wikipedia
- b. Biography database
- c. An official webpage on a university website where he or she is employed
- d. Answers a., b., and c.
- e. Answers b. and c.

12. Which of the following strategies would be useful for trying to confirm the accuracy of information on a Web page?

- a. Checking the Web page author's qualifications
- b. Researching other sources for the same information
- c. Finding out which institution is hosting the Web page
- d. Answers a. and c.
- e. Answers a. and b. and c.

13. Copyright protection covers materials:

- a. Only as long as the author or creator is still alive.
- b. Only if an explicit copyright notice (©, or Copyright by ...) is displayed.
- c. That represent an original idea, in a fixed format (text, music, drawing, video, ...).
- d. Only if they have been published.

14. You want to use some of the information found in a magazine article for your research paper. Which situation(s) require that you write a footnote citing the source of your information?

- a. When you copy a whole paragraph.
- b. When you paraphrase a main point in your own words.
- c. When you quote a sentence from the article.
- d. Answers a., b, and c
- e. Answers a. and c.

15. Which of the following are valid reasons to cite the sources you used for a research paper?

- a. Readers of your paper may want to find and read the sources you cite.
- b. U.S. Copyright law states that research papers must contain such a list.
- c. You could be accused of plagiarism if you don't cite your sources properly.
- d. Answers a., b., and c.
- e. Answers a. and c.

16. You want to create a personal webpage that contains a clip of one of your favorite songs. What is required of you, if anything, before posting this webpage?

- a. Notify the songwriter that you will use part of his/her song.
- b. Find out who owns the rights to the song and ask for permission to play part of the song.
- c. Nothing, you can use the song since you are only playing a small part of it.
- d. You can use the song since you purchased the CD.

17. Which of the following statements is true?

- a. When citing articles you retrieved from an online periodical database, you may need to include the name of the database.
- b. Different disciplines, such as psychology or biology, have developed specific citation styles.
- c. If you use a website as an information source for a paper you must cite it in the bibliography.
- d. Answers a. and b.
- e. Answers a., b. and c.

18. You want to help your father understand a medical diagnosis. You need to find good information written for the non-expert. Look at the database descriptions in the box below and then select the best source to search for this information need.

NewsBank NewsFile

COVERAGE: A comprehensive, full-text news resource consisting of regional, national and international sources. Its regional articles offer a valuable benefit to researchers and students by providing coverage of current issues and events. Updated daily.

Health Reference Center - Academic

COVERAGE: Articles from a variety of consumer-oriented and professional health periodicals, plus excerpts from health-related reference books. Material includes a medical dictionary; medical directories and reference books; and pamphlets issued by leading health organizations. Updated weekly.

BioMedical Reference Collection: Basic

COVERAGE: Provides health professionals access to 100 full-text journals covering such disciplines as clinical medicine, nursing, dentistry, veterinary medicine, the health care system and the pre-clinical sciences. Updated weekly.

- a. NewsBank NewsFile
- b. Health Reference Center - Academic
- c. BioMedical Reference Collections: Basic
- d. Answers a., b., and c.

19. You are writing a paper for a psychology class and your professor has told you to use the PsychINFO database to find appropriate scholarly sources. The search terms you are using are returning results that don't seem relevant for your topic. What should you do?

- a. Try the search in Google
- b. Email PsychInfo for assistance
- c. Ask a librarian for help
- d. Try another database

20. What is an example of a primary source of information?

- a. A dataset from the US Census Bureau
- b. A research article from a scientific journal
- c. An interview transcript from an oral history archive
- d. A textbook
- e. Both a and c

21. What disciplinary action might happen to a IWU student who violates university policies on plagiarism?

- a. Dismissal from the university
- b. A failing grade for the course
- c. A failing grade for the assignment
- d. B and C
- e. A, B and C

22. Which of the following statements is true about popular magazines (such as Newsweek) and scholarly journals (such as American Sociological Review) (1.2.2)

- a. Scholarly periodicals never have advertisements
- b. Articles in scholarly periodicals are written by authorities in the field
- c. Popular periodicals usually cite sources
- d. All articles in scholarly periodicals contain charts and/or graphs

Directions: The next several items ask you to select the best match.

Numbers 23-26. below are four citations for types of information sources. Match the lettered items to each citation. **You may use a letter more than once.**

- a. Book
- b. Chapter in a book
- c. Periodical article
- d. Article in an encyclopedia

23. ____ Hume, David. 1997. Justice and equality. In *Equality: selected readings*, eds. Louis P. Pojman and Robert Westmoreland, 55-80. New York: Oxford University Press.

24. ____ Engel, K. 2002. Post-Workout Refueling. *Muscle & Fitness* 10(2):32-40.

25. ____ Meeks, K. 2000. *Driving while black: Highways, shopping malls, taxicabs, sidewalks: How to fight back if you are a victim of racial profiling*. New York: Broadway.

26. ____ Smith, Andrew. 2005. Detained by the U.S. government. *Synthesis* 12(3):9-11.