



Information Literacy Questionnaire

This questionnaire covers a variety of topics concerning how you look for information for assignments or essays. The goal of this questionnaire is to help us assess your information literacy skills so we can develop tutorials which will match your needs well.

For questions 1 to 4, TICK ONLY ONE ANSWER

1. Age group:

- 16-18
- 19-21
- 22-30
- 31-40
- Older than 40

2. Gender:

- Male
- Female

3. Highest level of education completed:

- Secondary school
- University
- Other (please specify):

4. Stream of the Diploma of Health Sciences enrolled in:

- Physiotherapy
- Occupational therapy
- Health sciences/social work
- Other (please specify)
- Don't know

As indicated in the covering letter, your responses are anonymous and it is important to answer all questions without consulting anyone else. If you don't know the answer, circle "Don't know".

For questions 5 to 23, CIRCLE ONLY ONE ANSWER

5. At school:

- a) I had classes on finding and using information
- b) I did not have classes on finding and using information
- c) Don't know

6. At school:

- a) I had access to good computer facilities
- b) I did not have access to good computer facilities
- c) Don't know

7. At home:

- a) I have online computer access whenever I need to use it
- b) I have online computer access but cannot use it often
- c) I do not have online computer access
- d) Don't know

8. If you want to find journal articles about "*The popularity of video games*", you will search in:

- a) The library catalogue
- b) A database
- c) Google
- d) The journals in the library
- e) Other (please, specify):
- f) Don't know

9) You have used the words "*business letters*" in a library catalogue search. No document is found by the search. What do you conclude?

- a) The library does not have any documents on this topic
- b) You have not used the right words
- c) All documents on this topic are already on loan
- d) The system is down
- e) Other (please specify):
- f) Don't know

10) To become familiar with a subject about which you know very little, first you consult:

- a) A journal
- b) An encyclopaedia
- c) A database
- d) A book
- e) Other (please specify):
- f) Don't know

11) You must use a psychology database to find information on "*The effect of family relations on the academic results of primary school students*". Which combination of words will you use?

- a) family relations, academic results, primary school
- b) family relations, academic results
- c) effect, family relations, academic results
- d) effect, family relations, academic results, primary school
- e) Other (please specify):
- f) Don't know

12) Which one of the following citations refers to a journal article?

- a) Miller, A.W. (1997). *Clinical disorders and stressful life events*. Madison, CT, International University Press.
- b) Anderson, K.H. (1999). "Ethical dilemmas and radioactive waste: A survey of the issues." *Environmental Ethics*, 2(3): 37-42.
- c) Hartley, J.T. & D.A. Walsh. (2000). "Contemporary issues and new directions in adult development of learning and memory", in L.W. Poon (ed.), *Aging in the 1980s: Psychological issues*, Washington, D.C., American Psychological Association, pp. 239-252.
- d) Maccoby, E.E. & J. Martin. (1983). "Socialization in the context of the family: Parent-child interaction", in P.H. Mussen (ed.), *Child psychology: Socialization, personality, and social development*. New York, Wiley, vol. 4, pp. 1-101.
- e) Don't know

13) Using a search engine such as Google or Yahoo, you would not find:

- a) The books available in the library
- b) Biographical information about famous people
- c) Merchandise catalogues
- d) Information about companies
- e) Other (please specify):
- f) Don't know

14) A friend told you that you should read an article published in the November 2001 issue of Internet Guide, "The Microsoft Xbox Console", by Mark Kenney. To check the availability of this article at the library, you search in the catalogue under:

- a) Internet Guide
- b) Mark Kenney
- c) The Microsoft Xbox Console
- d) Answers (a), (b), and (c) are correct
- e) Other (please specify):
- f) Don't know

15) Using a search engine such as Google to search for documents on "*The depletion of the ozone layer and the impact on health*", you use the words:

- a) impact, depletion, ozone layer, health
- b) ozone layer, health
- c) ozone layer
- d) skin cancer, ozone layer
- e) Other (please specify):
- f) Don't know

16) In order to find more documents on your topic you can include synonyms in your search statement. To combine those synonyms in your statement, you use:

- a) AND
- b) +
- c) NOT
- d) OR
- e) Other (please specify):
- f) Don't know

17) You have found a book that is right on your topic. Which section of the book will you consult to find other documents on the topic?

- a) The glossary
- b) The index
- c) The bibliography
- d) The table of contents
- e) Other (please specify):
- f) Don't know

18) To find all the documents about *John Grisham* in the library catalogue, you would do a search:

- a) By title
- b) By publisher
- c) By subject
- d) By author
- e) Other (please specify):
- f) Don't know

19) When searching a specialized database for documents on your subject, it is recommended to use terminology specific to the database. To identify these terms you would consult:

- a) An ideogram
- b) A dictionary
- c) A thesaurus
- d) An Internet search engine
- e) Other (please specify):
- f) Don't know

20) You must make an oral presentation on the topic "*Measures currently used across the country to decrease damage to the natural environment*". Among the following choices, which one describes best the ideas contained in your subject?

- a) damage to the natural environment, Australia
- b) measures currently used, environment, country
- c) damage, environment, measures currently used
- d) protective measures, environment, Australia
- e) Other (please specify):
- f) Don't know

21) Using a metasearch engine such as Copernic or MetaCrawler, it is possible to:

- a) Launch a search in many search engines simultaneously
- b) Execute a search in all the existing Web sites
- c) Extend the search into foreign language Web sites
- d) Execute the search in all the databases available in the library
- e) Other (please specify):
- f) Don't know

22) To find the most recent information about drug abuse, you would consult:

- a) A book
- b) A journal
- c) An encyclopedia
- d) A dictionary
- e) Other (please specify):
- f) Don't know

23) You have to write a paper on the "*Treatment of depression*". Which search strategy would find the least number of documents?

- a) depression and psychotherapy
- b) depression or psychotherapy or antidepressants
- c) depression and psychotherapy and antidepressants
- d) depression
- e) Other (please specify):
- f) Don't know

For questions 24 to 27, YOU MAY CIRCLE MORE THAN ONE ANSWER

24) Some of the items that can be found in the library catalogue include:

- a) All the titles of the books available in the library
- b) All the titles of the books available on the market
- c) All the titles of articles found in the journals available in the library
- d) All the titles of journals available in the library
- e) None of the above
- f) Don't know

25) Some of the characteristics used to evaluate the quality of an Internet site are that:

- a) The date of publication is provided
- b) The author is known in the field
- c) Responsibility for the site is clearly indicated
- d) The site is rapidly accessible
- e) None of the above
- f) Don't know

26) You found magazine articles and Web pages presenting different views on a current issue. You want to use this information to write your paper. In which case(s) do you need to include a reference to the source of information?

- a) When you copy word for word a paragraph from a magazine article
- b) When you copy word for word a paragraph from a Web page
- c) When you write in your own words what is being said in a magazine article
- d) When you write in your own words what is being said in a Web page
- e) In none of the above cases
- f) Don't know

27) Which of the following best describe(s) articles published in a scholarly journal?

- a) The information is written for the layperson
- b) It includes a list of references
- c) The research method used is described
- d) It has been evaluated by an editorial board before publication
- e) None of the above
- f) Don't know

Your comments are welcome:

We thank you very much for your participation.

Questions 8 – 27 are derived from the questionnaire in Mittermeyer, D. and Diane Quirion. "Information literacy: study of incoming first-year undergraduates in Quebec." *Conférence des recteurs et des principaux des universités du Québec*. Montréal, 2003: pp. 111. Available online (PDF) http://crepuq.qc.ca/documents/bibl/formation/studies_Ang.pdf (accessed 8 September 2004)