

Research Skills Survey

This assessment of the research skills of incoming students will help to develop the library's information literacy program at Muhlenberg College. Thank you for your time and consideration.

1. How old are you? (Circle One) 17 18 19 20 21 22+

2. What is your gender? (Check One) Male Female

3. What is your proposed major(s)? _____

4. I have used a library online catalog: (Circle one)
 Never Occasionally Often Not Familiar / Not Sure

5. While in high school, I used libraries or library resources: (Circle one)
 Never Occasionally Often Not Familiar / Not Sure

6. How comfortable are you in doing library research for an assignment? (Circle one)
 Very Comfortable Somewhat Comfortable Not Comfortable Not Familiar / Not Sure

7. I have written a paper that required a bibliography or list of works cited: (Circle one)
 Never Occasionally Often Not Familiar / Not Sure

8. In my high school, I had a class or session given by a librarian or teacher on library resources and research strategies. (Check one) Yes No

9. My teachers or librarians in high school discussed how to critically evaluate a website. Yes No

10. How often have you asked a librarian for assistance with doing research? (Circle one)
 Never Occasionally Often Not Familiar / Not Sure

Below are some knowledge questions about research. . .

11. Which of the following is the best way to start if you want to locate scholarly journal articles on a specific topic? (Check one)

Page through journals Use a web search engine Don't know / Not sure

Use a research database Use the library catalog

12. The following citation is from a periodical index.

Chace, W.M. The real challenge of multiculturalism. *The Education Digest* 56 (May 1991): 34-36.

What is the journal title? _____

please continue on next page . . .

13. The citation below refers to what? Choose one answer.

Borzutsky, Sylvia. (1998). "Chilean democracy before and after Pinochet." In von Mettenheim, Kurt and Malloy, James, (Eds), Deepening Democracy in Latin America. University of Pittsburgh Press: Pittsburgh, PA. Pages 89-107.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book | <input type="checkbox"/> Journal article |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter within a book | <input type="checkbox"/> Website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper article | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know / Not sure |

14. Which of the following are considered primary sources? Choose all that apply.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Letters | <input type="checkbox"/> Biographies | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know / Not sure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper articles from the time of the event | <input type="checkbox"/> Journal articles | <input type="checkbox"/> Encyclopedia article |

15. You have been assigned to find a scholarly journal article on the effects of television commercials on children. Which of these items would best fulfill your assignment? Choose one.

- Young, Brian M. *Television Advertising and Children*. New York: Penguin Press, 1990.
- Prichard, Chris. Australian Kids Inundated with Junk Food Ads. *Medical Post Newsletter* 31.16 (22 Apr. 2003): 71.
- Oates, Caroline. Children and Television Advertising: When Do They Understand Persuasive Intent? *Harvard Review of Consumer Behavior* 1.3 (Feb. 2002): 238-245.
- Rockwell, Lew. *Marketing Evil?* 15 September 2000. 26 May 2004
<http://www.lewrockwell.com/rockwell/marketingevil.html>.

16. Suppose you have read an article for a research paper that you are writing. In which of the following instances would you include a footnote, or citation, to this article? Choose all that apply:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> When you quote a whole paragraph | <input type="checkbox"/> You do not need to cite an article that you are quoting from |
| <input type="checkbox"/> When you write a paragraph over in your own words | <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above |
| <input type="checkbox"/> When you quote one sentence from the article | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know / Not Sure |

17. If you were asked to find information on the web for a research paper, name one criterion that would be important to you in evaluating the authority of a website:

18. *Newsweek* is published weekly. It reports on current events and issues in the US and throughout the world. Articles cover business and financial news, as well as social and technological trends that affect our everyday lives. It examines these issues from multiple perspectives. **What type of publication is this?** Choose one:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Popular periodical | <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarly journal | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know / Not Sure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book | <input type="checkbox"/> Government document | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional/trade magazine | <input type="checkbox"/> Tabloid | |

Thank you for your time!