

Library Survey

This survey covers a variety of topics concerning how you look for information for assignments or essays. The goal of this survey is to help us assess your information literacy skills so we can develop tutorials which will match your needs well. This is not a test.

Your responses are anonymous and we will be looking at the results of the group not individuals. So it is important to answer all questions honestly and without asking anyone else. If you don't know the answer, circle *Don't know*

Your participation is voluntary. If you choose not to answer this survey there is no penalty.

Confidentiality

Under no circumstances will individual student responses be shown to lecturers or other University authorities.

Your answers will be combined with those of other students and used by the University Library to find out about the information skills of whole groups of students.

Thank you for completing the survey.

For questions 1-4, CIRCLE only ONE answer:

1. Age group:

- a 16-18
- b 19-21
- c 22-30
- d 31-40
- e 40+

2. Highest level of education completed:

- a Secondary School
- b University
- c Other (please specify).....

3. Health sciences discipline area in which you are enrolled:

- a Health Information Management
- b Nursing and Midwifery
- c Occupational Therapy
- d Orthoptics
- e Physiotherapy
- f Podiatry
- g Prosthetics and Orthotics
- h Public Health
- i Social Work / Human Services
- j Speech Pathology
- k Other (please specify)

4. Which campus do you attend?

- a Albury/Wodonga
- b Bendigo
- c Bundoora
- d City Campus (Franklin St)
- e Mildura
- f Shepparton
- g Other (please specify)

***For question 5, please number in order of importance
1 = most important ... 8 = least important:***

5. In order to become familiar with a subject about which I know very little, first I consult:

- ☐ A journal
- ☐ Ask a friend
- ☐ An encyclopaedia
- ☐ A blog
- ☐ A database
- ☐ Google
- ☐ A book
- ☐ Wikipedia
- ☐ Other (please specify)

For Question 6, CIRCLE as MANY as apply:

6. How do you expect to use the Library at La Trobe University?

- a Borrow books and other resources
- b Private study
- c Socialise or meet people
- d Use e-resources (online books, journals etc)
- e Print out materials
- f Ask a librarian for help
- g Use the computers
- h Do group work or study

- i I only expect to use the library on the web
- j I don't expect to use any library services at all
- k Comments
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For questions 7-16, CIRCLE only ONE answer:

7. At my most recent educational experience: (e.g. school, TAFE, college)

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

8. At my most recent educational institution experience:

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

9. At home (currently):

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

10. If I want to find scholarly journal articles about the impact of global warming I 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

11. You have used the words 'business letters' in a library catalogue search. No items are found by the computer. What do you conclude?

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

**12. 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

13. 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 Don't know

14. A friend told me that I should read an article by John Broome about the ethics of climate change in the June 2008 edition of Scientific American.

To check the availability of this article in the Library, I search in the catalogue under:

- a Scientific American
- b John Broome
- c The Ethics of climate change

- d Answers (a), (b), and (c) are correct
- e Other (please specify):
- f Don't know

15. To find all the information about Tim Winton in the Library catalogue, I would do a search:

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

16. You have to write a paper on the 'Treatment of depression'. Which search strategy will find the least number of items?

- 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 17-20 CIRCLE as MANY as apply:

17. 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

18. Among the characteristics that are used to evaluate the quality of an internet site I would check:

- 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

19. You found magazine articles and web pages presenting different views on a current issue and 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 I copy word for word a paragraph from a magazine article
- b When I copy word for word a paragraph from a Web page
- c When I write in my own words what is being said in a magazine article
- d When I write in my own words what is being said in a web page
- e In none of the above cases
- f Don't know

20. Which of the following best describe(s) articles published in a peer-reviewed scholarly journal?

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

We thank you very much for your participation - contacts: library@latrobe.edu.au

Your comments are most welcome:

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Please return the survey to your campus library or hand to your facilitator by 13 March 2009.

This survey was based on the questionnaire in Mittermeyer, D. and Quiron, D. Information literacy: study of incoming first-year undergraduates in Quebec. *Conference des recteurs et des principaux des Universités du Québec*. Montreal, 2003. Available http://crepug.qc.ca/documents/bibl/formation/studies_Ang.pdf