

**NJ\_VALE 2011 Users' Annual Conference**  
**Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ**  
**Jan. 5, 2011**

**Three Summative Surveys in Assessing Information Literacy and Learning Outcomes (handout)**

Ma Lei Hsieh, mhsieh@rider.edu and Patricia H. Dawson, pdawson@rider.edu  
Moore Library, Rider University, New Jersey

**Survey 1 (S1): 2009 Fall Survey Questions**

IL Objective 1: The information literate student determines the nature and extent of the information needed. Students will identify a variety of types and formats of potential sources of information.

1. Typically a library's online catalog contains:
  - a. Information about books, videos, and other nonprint items in the library
  - b. The complete text of the journal articles in the library
  - c. Information about the college's courses
  - d. Full-text books
  - e. Don't know
2. Which of the following would be the best tool to use to obtain journal articles for your topic "autistic children"?
  - a. The library's online catalog
  - b. A library's database/index
  - c. An encyclopedia
  - d. Google
  - e. Don't know
3. You have gotten an assignment on "watersheds" which you know very little about. What's the first thing you should do to get started?
  - a. Browse the library shelves for books on watersheds.
  - b. Type "watersheds" in a web search engine for a complete list of references on the topic.
  - c. Ask your friends if any of them know about your topic.
  - d. Find out some basics on watersheds from an encyclopedia.
  - e. Ask the professor if you can change topics.
4. Which of the following are characteristics of scholarly journals?
  - a. Contain colorful, glossy pages and typically accept commercial advertising.
  - b. Mainly for the general public to read.
  - c. Report news events in a timely manner.
  - d. Articles include detailed references.
  - e. Don't know.
5. What is the easiest way to find out if the library has the 1998 issues of *Journal of Communication*?
  - a. Search the library's periodical shelves.
  - b. Search "Journal Holdings" on the library Web page.
  - c. Search Google Scholar.
  - d. Search NoodleBib.
  - e. Don't know.

## Survey 2 (S2): 2010 Spring Survey Questions

IL Objective II: The information literate student accesses needed information effectively and efficiently. Students will recognize controlled vocabularies; illustrate search statements that incorporate appropriate keywords and synonyms, controlled vocabularies (when appropriate), Boolean operators, nesting of terms, and truncation, refining the search statement when necessary; and determine the most appropriate resources for accessing needed information.

6. To find the critiques on William Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*, in the Online Catalog, I would do a search:
  - a. By title
  - b. By keyword
  - c. By subject
  - d. By author
  - e. Don't know
7. Which is the correct search strategy to combine terms with the operators (AND, OR)?
  - a. Death penalty or capital punishment and women
  - b. Death penalty or (capital punishment and women)
  - c. (Death penalty or capital punishment) and women
  - d. (Death penalty and women) or capital punishment"
  - e. I don't know
8. *Truncation* is a library computer-searching term meaning that the last letter or letters of a word are substituted with a symbol, such as "\*" or "\$". A good reason you might truncate a search term such as child\* is that truncation will
  - a. limit the search to descriptor or subject fields
  - b. reduce the number of irrelevant citations
  - c. yield more citations
  - d. save time in typing a long word
  - e. I don't know
9. In order to find more documents on my topic I can include synonyms in my search statement. To connect those synonyms in my statement, I use:
  - a. AND
  - b. +
  - c. NOT
  - d. OR
  - e. I don't know
10. Choose the best place to find a reliable and detailed history of television in the US for a research paper.
  - a. Book
  - b. Website
  - c. Magazine/newspaper
  - d. Scholarly Journal
  - e. I don't know

## Survey 3 (S3), Fall 2010 (above questions 1-10)