

# **Information Literacy 2002**

## **Library Search Skills: A Pilot**

**Report Date: July 15, 2002**

### **Outcome:**

Students at the University of La Verne are competent to search effectively and efficiently for information using library and technical resources.

### **Faculty and Personnel Involved**

The committee for assessment of information literacy was formed in the Fall of 2000 and was composed of the following members: Paul Alvarez, Dona Bentley (Access Services Librarian), Aghop Der-Karabetian, Marlin Heckman (Librarian), Xiaoyan Liu, Keith Lord, Ben Mortagy, Lisa Porter, and Seta Whitby.

### **Method and Procedure**

#### **1. Sample**

The participants in the pilot study were 200 undergraduates. The convenient sample included 128 traditional age Freshmen, 43 traditional age sophomores, juniors and seniors, and 29 CAPA (Adult) students. The gender breakdown showed 67% women and 32% men. The ethnic composition of the sample was vary comparable to the overall traditional undergraduate profile with 42% European American, 30% Latino American, 12% African American, 9% multiple ethnicity, 2% Asian American and 6% other.

In term of class breakdown, 66% were freshmen, 14% sophomores, 11% Junior, and 9% Senior.

#### **2. Measurement tool**

The measurement tool was composed of 53 questions which were designed in multiple choice format. Each question had a one best answer. Therefore it was possible to determine how many respondents were able to answer each question correctly. It was also possible to obtain an overall score on the measure.

The items were generated by the members of the committee which were partially adopted from several sources in public domain from CSU web sites and other internet and published resources (See appendix A for specific sources).

After the items were generated they were compared to the five Literacy Competency Standards for Higher education that had been just published by Association of College and Research Libraries, in the Spring of 2000. The items covered four of the standards, except Standard 4, "Use information effectively for a purpose." The number of items in each of the standards are as follows:

Standard 1: Determine nature and extent of information needed	18 Items
Standard 2: Access needed information	17 Items
Standard 3: Evaluate information critically and incorporate	7 Items
Standard 4: Use information effectively for a purpose	0 Items
Standard 5: Understand legal and ethical issues	5 Items

### 3. Procedure

The self-report measure was administered in various classes, predominantly in the first college writing classes, under faculty supervision.

### Results

The summary table below groups different competency elements under each Standard into three categories: (a) Questions that 85 or higher percentage of students answered correctly; (b) Questions that 70 - 84% of the students answered correctly; and (c) Questions that less than 70% of the students answered correctly. The last category was considered to identify area of weakness.

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<b>Information Literacy Test</b>		
<b>Summary of Pilot Data (n=200)</b>		
<b>June 18, 2001</b>		
<b>85% or better</b>	<b>70 - 84%</b>	<b>Less than 70%</b>

#### **Standard 1 concepts correctly identified (Determine nature and extent of information needed)**

Bibliography	Citation	Reference list
Journal	Dissertation	Abstract
Index	Magazine	Chapter author citation
Data base	Ed book author citation	Refereed journals
Year of publication	Ed Publish in citation	Ident title in Proquest

Librarian's job

Ed book title in citation  
Author in Proquest  
Check-out process

**Standard 2 concepts correctly identified (Access needed information)**

Call number	Location by call #	Refereed sources
Proquest	LeoPac	Books on reserve
Periodical index	ULV periodical holdings	Interlibrary loan
Search by key words	Currency of period. lit. Currency of period. index Data base search strategy-logic	

**Standard 3 concepts correctly identified (Evaluate information critically and incorporate)**

Web - Ident. time of update	Web - Credibility	Web - Criteria for evaluation
Web - availability of contact info.		Web - Author credibility Web - Depth of material

**Standard 4 concepts not tested (Use information effectively for a purpose)**

**Standard 5 concepts correctly identified (Understand legal and ethical issues)**

Need to give credit	Plagiarism in speech Plagiarism of on-line material	Need to use quotes
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**Conclusions and Recommendations**

The questions on the measurement tool are fairly well constructed with several needing to be reworded for clarity. The difficulty level of the items appears to be reasonably well distributed such that there are easy, moderately difficult and difficult questions.

It is recommended that:

- The test be revised and administered early in the Fall of 2002 to incoming traditional age freshmen and later in the Spring of 2003 to traditional age seniors.
- The test include a hands on search performance assessment component.
- The test be available to take on line - Blackboard platform
- The test be coordinated with the self-report test of Technology Competency
- The test be piloted with SCE students under supervised conditions in the Fall of 2002.

## Appendix A

### Information Literacy Test Questions

January 20, 2001

Student ID \_\_\_\_\_

Campus Site/Location: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Class level

- a. Freshman
- b. Sophomore
- c. Junior
- d. Senior
- e. Graduate student: (Specify program) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Please indicate your ethnic background: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Have you ever had instruction in using library resources?  
(Check all that apply)

- a. None
- b. Yes, at a public library
- c. Yes, in high school
- d. Yes, at the University of La Verne
- e. Yes, at another college

4. At this time you are a student at

- a. The main campus traditional-age program
- b. The main campus CAPA program (For adults)
- c. Main campus graduate
- d. A School of Continuing Education campus or site

5. Gender

- a. Female
- b. Male

6. Have you used the LEOPac (Online public access catalog) to locate library materials like books, dissertations, videos, etc at ULV?

- a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. Do not know what LEOPac is
7. A publication where articles written by scholars or experts in a field are published is called
- a. Gazetteer
  - b. Index
  - c. Journal
  - d. Magazine
8. A periodical intended for general readers is called
- a. Gazetteer
  - b. Index
  - c. Journal
  - d. Magazine
9. Part of a book that contains an alphabetical list of topics with page references is called
- a. Gazetteer
  - b. Index
  - c. Journal
  - d. Magazine
10. A geographical dictionary is called
- a. Gazetteer
  - b. Index
  - c. Journal
  - d. Magazine
11. The Call Number of a book
- a. Allows you to order the book on line
  - b. Is the phone number of the author
  - c. Is used to locate the book in the library
  - d. Is the number bookstores use to identify a book
12. A periodical index is used to
- a. Locate journal articles
  - b. Find video titles

- c. Look for books
  - d. Identify online databases
13. A bibliography is a list of
- a. Addresses
  - b. Phone numbers
  - c. Citations to information
  - d. Corporations
14. To find the most current information on your topic you would consult
- a. Books
  - b. Periodical Literature
  - c. Encyclopedia articles
  - d. Bibliographies
15. The best way to find current information in the library on the international space station would be to
- a. Look through magazines or journals in the periodicals area
  - b. Search the online catalog of the library
  - c. Search in a periodical index
  - d. Search in the Library of Congress
16. An abstract is
- a. An excerpt from the full text of a book or article
  - b. An MP3 file
  - c. A summary of the content of a journal article or dissertation
  - d. A definition of a theoretical concept
17. You can use the library online catalog to find information on
- a. All books published in California
  - b. Faculty teaching courses at the University of La Verne
  - c. Books for sale
  - d. Books and Journal titles owned by the library
18. A refereed journal is a periodical that
- a. Is published by the National Association of Referees
  - b. Is intended for the general population to refer to for specific information
  - c. Publishes articles reviewed by experts in a field of study

d. Is located in the reference section of the library

**This is a sample from the printed index of the Readers Guide to Periodical Literature, answer questions 19-21:**

**The lecture theater of the absurd. L. Lowe. The American Scholar v65 p99-106 Win '96**

19. In the above citation "L. Lowe "is

- a. The publisher of the journal
- b. The author of the article
- c. Part of the title of the article
- d. None of the above

20. The above article was published in

- a. 1996
- b. 1965
- c. 1999
- d. Windows 96

21. In the above citation "The American Scholar" is

- a. The title of the author
- b. The title of the periodical
- c. The nationality of the author
- d. The title of the article

22. In the following citation:

Bauer, Henry H. (1986). The enigma of Loch Ness: making sense of mystery. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.

"Henry H. Bauer" is the author of

- a. A journal article

- b. A government document
  - c. A conference proceeding
  - d. A book
23. If you need articles researched, written, and published by experts on your topic or your field, which also include references, you should use
- a. Popular magazines and newspapers
  - b. Refereed or scholarly journals
  - c. Both a and b
  - d. None of the above
24. ProQuest Direct
- a. Is a database of statistical information produced by the government
  - b. Is a database limited to published books
  - c. Is a database that includes article abstracts as well as full text of articles, reports and dissertations
  - d. Is a database of experts in different fields
25. You have been given the assignment: "Prepare a presentation on the gains achieved by women during the 1980s." Which of the following provide the best list of key words to use to search information on this assignment?
- a. Presentation, women, gains
  - b. Women, gains, achieved
  - c. Women, gains, 1980s
  - d. Gains, achieved, 1980
26. To find a book in the ULV Library on the life of Cesar Chavez, you would look
- a. Under his name as a subject on the LEOPac
  - b. In a biography of American authors
  - c. In a periodical index
  - d. In the reference section of the Library
27. The call number of a book you have been looking for is PE 1625.C29. Between which of the following two call numbers would you find this book?
- a. PE 1625.C4 and PE 1625.C43
  - b. PE 29.C54 and PE 1625.C3



- c. PC 164.C33 and PE 1625.A54
- d. P 28.C29 and PE 28.C3

**You search the WEB for information on cloning and find the following web site. Answer questions 28-33.**

(Place a copy of Web site here)

28. Is there an indication of when the information was created or updated?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Can't tell

29. Is the information presented here credible enough to be used in a scholarly term paper?

- a. Yes
- b. No

- c. Can't tell
30. Is there information on the author or producer's credentials?
- a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. Can't tell
31. Is there contact information (e.g. e-mail address for the author or producer)?
- a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. Can't tell
32. Does the web site cover the topic extensively?
- a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. Can't tell
33. Is the information presented primarily factual in nature or primarily opinion?
- a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. Can't tell
34. Which of the following statements will get the best information from a database search on this topic? "Discuss capital punishment as a deterrent to crime."
- a. Capital punishment **or** crime
  - b. Deterrent **and** crime
  - c. Capital punishment **and** crime
  - d. Punishment **or** crime
35. Which of the following search statements will obtain the best results from a database search on the relationship of asthma to hay fever?
- a. Asthma **and** hay **and** fever
  - b. "Asthma" **and** "hay fever"
  - c. "Asthma **or** hay" and fever
  - d. Asthma **or** hay fever **or** attack
36. In evaluating a website and determining whether or not it includes information that is reliable and appropriate for academic research, what question about the site is not necessary to ask?
- a. Who is the author of this site?

- b. Did the site use the latest web technology?
  - c. When is the last time this site was updated?
  - d. Is there biased point of view in the presentation of information at this site
37. Is it appropriate to use quotations of another as if they are your own in a term paper without giving credit ?
- a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. Don't know
38. Is it plagiarism to use an idea you have come across in a book in your speech without giving credit because you couldn't remember the author's name?
- a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. Don't know
39. Is it plagiarism to use the ideas of others in a paper as if they are your own without citing them?
- a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. Don't know
40. Is it plagiarism to lift or copy text verbatim with no quotation marks but including a citation?
- a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. Don't know
41. A reference list
- a. Includes sources cited in a book or an article
  - b. Is a list of names of important people in a discipline
  - c. Is a list of people who write reference letters for librarians
  - d. Is the list of books found in the reference section of the library
42. A citation

- a. Is the list of index words in the back of a book
- b. Is the detailed description of a chapter in a book
- c. Is the university affiliation of the author of a book or a scientific article
- d. Is the name of an author(s) and the date of the publication in the body of an article or a book

43. A dissertation

- a. Is a scholarly work on a topic
- b. Is a brief essay for popular consumption
- c. Is a well designed political speech
- d. Is the biography of a doctoral student

44. Is it correct to say that information found on-line for which you did not have to pay may be used without giving credit because it is freely available?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Don't know

45. It is the job of a librarian

- a. To help student come up with ideas for their term papers
- b. To provide students with all the books they need to write their papers
- c. To help students locate sources that may be helpful in their research
- d. To tell faculty what library assignments are appropriate

46. The following call number:

Ref  
JC  
319  
.D495  
1994

- a. Identifies a periodical in the main stacks of the library
- b. Identifies a book in the reference section of the library
- c. Identifies a book in the main stacks of the library
- d. Identifies a video found behind the circulation desk

47. When you make an interlibrary loan request for a periodical article
- a. You have looked and have not found the article at Wilson Library
  - b. You expect another library that has the article will send you a copy
  - c. You have to pay a charge for the service
  - d. All of the above

48. The ULV Periodical Holdings binder has the following information about a journal:  
JOURNAL OF EXPERIMENTAL EDUCATION  
LIBRARY: Wilson Library  
LOCATION: Periodical Shelves/Microfilm  
START YEAR: 1967 END YEAR: Current  
CALL NUMBER: L11.J6  
FORMAT AND HOLDINGS:  
PRINTED: W[36(1/2/4), 1967-68:37-39, 1968-71;42-, 1973-]

Which statement is true

- a. August 2000 issue of this periodical can be found at the Wilson Library
  - b. Wilson library started receiving this journal only in the current year
  - c. The periodical is only available on microfilm
  - d. The librarian will allow you to make an interlibrary loan request for an article found in this periodical
49. To check a book out from the library you need to present the book and your ID at the
- a. Reserve desk
  - b. Reference desk
  - c. Circulation desk
  - d. Head Librarian's desk
50. A book that has been put on reserve
- a. Is a book reserved for a specific student to borrow for up to one year
  - b. Is intended for use by all students in a class on a limited time bases
  - c. Is reserved for use by faculty in a particular department
  - d. Is available only at the discretion of the Reserve Librarian