

Information Literacy Questionnaire

Fall 2004

In a continuing effort to improve resources and services, the library asks your assistance in providing feedback to the following questions. Your participation is voluntary and greatly appreciated.

- PLEASE DO NOT SIGN YOUR NAME TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE. All responses are strictly anonymous.
- PLEASE ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS, and return the completed questionnaire to your instructor.
- IF YOU HAVE COMPLETED THIS QUESTIONNAIRE IN ANOTHER CLASS, PLEASE DO NOT DO SO AGAIN.

Class Rank

2004 1st Year 69% Sophomore 23% Junior 5% Senior _____
 2006 1st Year 19% Sophomore 23% Junior 35% Senior 22%

Graduate student _____ Part-time student 3%

Advantage student 1% Live on campus 43%

In what course are you answering this questionnaire? CO 110
IS Course 100%

Do you have Internet access at home? **2004 Y = 85%** N
2006 Y = 93% N = 7%

If 'yes' for how many years?

2004 less than a year 2% 1 year 6% 2-3 years 19% 4-5 years 72%
2006 3% 6.5% 16% 74%

Which of the following information related activities have you done during the past year? (check as many as needed)

2004	2006
94.5% Written a paper, which required research.	100%
71% Given a speech, which required research.	100%
78% Written a reference and/or bibliography using a format such as MLA or APA, etc.	100%
82% Researched an area of personal interest.	100%
43% Rejected a piece of information because the source was unreliable.	100%

Part II Please answer each of the following questions.

1. A student approaches the reference librarian and says, "This summer was too hot. I wonder if it is because of global warming?"

What might be the thesis statement of this student's paper?

2004 2006

- | | | | |
|-------------|------------|----|--|
| 3.6% | 0% | 1. | It was too hot this summer. |
| 62% | 59% | 2. | Global warming is causing the mean temperature of the earth to rise, which could have disastrous effects on the ecology of the planet. |
| 20% | 28% | 3. | Did global warming cause abnormal heat around the planet? |
| 7% | 1% | 4. | Watch out for giant squids this summer; they now take up more space than humans because of global warming. |
| 7% | 12% | 5. | This paper will be about the effects of global warming. |

2. Where should you begin your search for information on global warming?

2004 2006

- | | | | |
|--------------|------------|----|---|
| 12.7% | 10% | 1. | A book located through Avila University's online catalog |
| 32.7% | 18% | 2. | A web site found on the Internet |
| 27.3% | 60% | 3. | A journal article from EBSCO's <i>Academic Search Elite</i> computer database |
| 25.5% | 12% | 4. | An overview article from the <i>Encyclopedia of Science & Technology</i> , copyright 2002 |

3. Your friend is searching a database for information for an English 111 paper on global warming. Using the search terms global warming, she finds more than 4500 articles. Would you advise her to:

2004 2006

- | | | | |
|--------------|------------|----|--|
| 65.5% | 67% | 1. | Use the terms "global warming" AND "climate" |
| 5.5% | 1% | 2. | Start working through all 4500 articles |
| 23.6% | 32% | 3. | Type the question, "What is global warming?" |
| 1.8% | 0% | 4. | Talk to your relative, who sells air conditioners. |

4. If your friend's search of "global warming" AND ozone AND temperature resulted in no hits, what would you try next?

2004 2006

- | | | | |
|--------------|------------|----|------------------------------|
| 5.5% | 4% | 1. | "Global warming" AND exhaust |
| 74.5% | 80% | 2. | "Global warming" AND ozone |
| 16.4% | 15% | 3. | "Greenhouse gases" |
| 1.8% | 0% | 4. | Cattle AND methane |
| 1.8% | 1% | 5. | "Cows belching" |

5. Which database would be best for finding information for a two-page paper for English Composition, about violence in schools?
- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|---|
| 2004 | 2006 | |
| 7.3% | 8% | 1. Primary Search. Provides full text for 57 children’s magazines and over 100 children’s pamphlets, designed for the elementary school student. |
| 45.5% | 35% | 2. Academic Universe. Contains full text for regional U.S. newspapers, international newspapers, newswires, newspaper columns as well as other sources. |
| 41.5% | 55% | 3. Academic Search Elite. Provides full text for more than 1,500 scholarly publications covering academic areas of study including social sciences, humanities, education, computer sciences, arts & literature. |
| 5.5% | 2% | 4. NewsBank. Complete full-text content for the <i>Kansas City Star</i> and the <i>St. Louis Post Dispatch</i> . |

6. When using the database *Academic Search Elite* for the first time, you should:
- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|--|
| 2004 | 2006 | |
| 20% | 16% | 1. Type in a subject and see what happens. |
| 69.1% | 81% | 2. Click on “online help” to learn how it works and then perform a search according to the tips. |
| 7.3% | 3% | 3. Click on “expert search” because you are now in college |
| 3.6% | | 4. Give up and use the Internet. |

7. Why do you need to keep track of the date you access an Internet site?
- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|---|
| 2004 | 2006 | |
| 20% | 26% | 1. You need it for your bibliography. |
| 23.6% | 16% | 2. Web pages disappear. Your instructor might not be able to get back to the site to double-check the information and think you made it up if you cannot document when you used it. |
| 10.9% | 2% | 3. Librarians recommend this technique, and you should always listen to librarians. |
| 4.0% | 54% | 4. All of the above. |
| 5.5% | 2% | 5. Keep track? Are you kidding? |

8. What is the best way to find a scholarly journal article on a given topic?
- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|--|
| 2004 | 2006 | |
| 10.9% | 6% | 1. Page through print volumes of academic journals |
| 18.2% | 10% | 2. Search a general Web search engine like Google or Yahoo |
| 49.1% | 72% | 3. Search a print index or periodical database like <i>Academic Search Elite</i> or <i>FirstSearch</i> |
| 20% | 11% | 4. Search the online library catalog |

9. Pick the best definition of plagiarism.

2004 2006

- | | | |
|--------------|------------|---|
| 66.7% | 84% | 1. The use of someone's words, ideas or line of thought without acknowledgment. |
| 7.4% | 2% | 2. Copying out of an encyclopedia without citing a source. |
| 3.7% | | 3. Incorrect use of footnotes in documentation. |
| 18.5% | 14% | 4. To copy another's work word for word. |

10. Examine the following citation:

Nemes, I. 2002. Regulating hate speech in cyberspace: Issues of desirability and efficacy. *Information & Communications Technology Law*. 11 (3):193-221.

This is a citation to:

2004 2006

- | | | |
|--------------|------------|------------------------|
| 20.4% | 12% | 1. A book |
| 38.9% | 67% | 2. A journal article |
| 37.% | 21% | 3. A portion of a book |

Thank you for your participation in this questionnaire.