Information Literacy
“Quiz”

Circle the best answer to each question.

1. You need information defining the term “watershed.” The dictionary’s definition isn’t adequate. What is your best choice for getting some brief background information?
   a. Search for “watershed” in the library’s online catalog.
   b. Find journal articles about “watershed.”
   c. Look up “watershed” in a general reference source like an encyclopedia.
   d. Type “watershed” in a Web search engine for a complete list of references on the topic.

2. To determine if an author is qualified to write an article on a specific topic, which of the following would most likely provide trustworthy information about the author’s qualifications?
   a. a general encyclopedia
   b. biography index or database
   c. author’s Web page hosted by the university where he or she is employed
   d. answers a., b., and c.
   e. answers b. and c.

3. Your research topic is “college science education.” How could you focus or narrow your topic? Write two (2) research questions that focuses your search for information.

   1. __________________________________________________________
   2. __________________________________________________________
4. Using the listing on the "Article Databases by Subject" page on the Library's Web site at http://www.cod.edu/library/resources/subjectdb/index.htm, list the names of two (2) article databases that would be good ones to use to research the topic of "insider trading."

5. Which group of keywords would you choose to do a search for information on this research question: "What are the various ways that doctors are successfully treating bipolar disorder in children"
   a. bipolar disorder, successfully, treating, children
   b. doctors, treating, bipolar disorder
   c. bipolar disorder, treatment, children
   d. physicians, treatment, bipolar disorder, children

6. You expect your students to write a 5-page paper on the benefits of aerobic exercise. What approach would you recommend to them to research this topic?
   a. Get an overview of the topic from a commercial Web site; then get recent, more specific information from magazine articles.
   b. Get scholarly journal articles for recent, very specific information about the topic.
   c. Get an overview of the topic from a current encyclopedia on exercise and health; then get more recent, more specific information from scholarly journal articles.
   d. Get an overview of the topic from a health encyclopedia.

7. You need information on career opportunities in law. What would you type in the Web search engine to find the most information?
   a. lawyers or attorneys
   b. career* law
   c. "career opportunities" law
   d. law jobs or careers
8. Which of the following strategies would be useful for trying to confirm the accuracy of information on a Web page?
   a. checking the Web page author's qualifications
   b. researching other sources for the same information
   c. finding out which institution is hosting the Web page
   d. answers a. and c.
   e. answers a. and b. and c.

9. Copyright protection covers works:
   a. as long as the author or creator is still alive.
   b. only if the explicit notice (©, or Copyright by…) is displayed.
   c. that represent an original idea, in any format (text, music, drawing, video…)
   d. only if they have been commercially published.

10. Go to the Library Catalog. Look up The mastery and uses of fire in antiquity. It's a great book and you would like to find other ones like it. How can you do that using the catalog? Hint: There is more than one way! Describe the process you used.

   ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________

Some of the questions in this "quiz" are adapted from the Bay Area Community Colleges Information Competency Assessment Project assessment instrument with the kind permission of Topsey Smalley, Librarian, Cabrillo College, California.

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