Questionnaire on Information Literacy
University students

This questionnaire is part of a study on information literacy of the department of information science at the Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf.

In some questions more than one answer can be selected. These questions are marked with [ANY NUMBER OF ANSWERS]. In this case choose all answers you think are right.

The first part of the questionnaire consists of questions about your person. If you do not want to answer questions, feel free to skip it.

The second part of the questionnaire tests your knowledge in different areas of information literacy. Please answer the questions in the given order.

All information will be handled anonymously.

I) How old are you? ______

II) What is your gender?
   o Male
   o Female

III) Please answer the questions about your studies:
   o Semester: _______

   o Major subject:____________________________________________________

   o What is your aimed degree (e.g. BA, MA…) ________________

IV) Do you own:
   o A computer or laptop
   o A cell phone without internet access
   o A cell phone with internet access
   o A tablet pc (e.g. iPad)
   o Nothing
V) In case you own a cell phone or a tablet pc: what do you use it for?
   o Playing games
   o Internet
   o Phone calls
   o Writing SMS
   o Taking pictures
   o Creating films

VI) Which search engines do you know?
   o Google
   o Yahoo
   o Bing
   o Scirus
   o WolframAlpha
   o AltaVista
   o Lycos
   o Ask Jeeves
   o Other: _________________
   o I don’t know any search engines

VII) Which search engine do you use most?
   o Search engine: _________________
   o I do not use any search engines

VIII) How would you rate your abilities in the following areas?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very good</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Bad</th>
<th>Very Bad</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Searching for literature in libraries</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
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<tr>
<td>Searching for literature in the internet</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citing literature</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge about information law and ethics (e.g. Copyright, Privacy)</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1) **True or false? The first search result in a search engine is always the best one.**

   [ONE ANSWER]
   - True
   - False
   - I don’t know

2) **True or false? All search engines give out the same results.** [ONE ANSWER]

   - True
   - False
   - I don’t know

3) **When researching a topic that you don’t know anything about, where would be the best place to start looking?** [ONE ANSWER]

   - In a journal
   - In an encyclopedia or dictionary
   - In a library catalog
   - I don’t know

4) **Which statement is true?** [ONE ANSWER]

   - In an internet research you should check as many web pages as possible
   - You should only use a single search engine
   - You should compare different websites
   - You should only look for information that supports your personal viewpoint
   - I don’t know

5) **You have performed a search in a library catalog. No documents were found. What is the most likely reason for this?** [ONE ANSWER]

   - The wrong search terms were used
   - All documents on this topic are borrowed at the moment
   - The system is defective
   - I don’t know

6) **You must write a paper comparing schools in Germany and Switzerland. Which words will you use in your web research?** [ONE ANSWER]

   - Germany, Switzerland, Europe, Schools
   - Europe, Germany, Switzerland
   - Schools, Switzerland, Germany
   - Schools, Europe
   - I don’t know
7) You must discuss a certain topic for a paper. You have already found a book on this topic. Which section of the book will you consult if you wish to find further documents on the same topic? [ONE ANSWER]
   - Glossary
   - Table of contents
   - Bibliography
   - Index
   - I don’t know

8) You are looking for information on the social integration of foreigners, but you may not use the word “integration.” Which word will you use instead? [ONE ANSWER]
   - Migration
   - Immigration
   - Assimilation
   - Foreigner
   - I don’t know

9) Which two terms are synonymous? [ONE ANSWER]
   - Blue (color) – Blues (music)
   - Tree – apple tree
   - Eggplant – aubergine
   - Dead – alive
   - I don’t know

10) Which query will retrieve more documents? [ONE ANSWER]
    - Dog AND cat
    - Dog OR cat
    - Both queries above will yield the same amount of results
    - I don’t know

11) Using a search engine, you wish to research the following recipe: Cookies, either with nuts or with almonds, but definitely without cinnamon. Which of the queries below (including operators) would you use to retrieve the recipe? [ONE ANSWER]
    - Cookies AND (nuts OR almonds) NOT cinnamon
    - (Nuts OR almonds) (AND cookies NOT cinnamon)
    - NOT cinnamon AND cookies (nuts OR almonds)
    - Cookies AND almonds AND nuts NOT cinnamon
    - I don’t know
12) Which words are retrieved when you search for Science* in a scientific search engine or in a library catalog with truncation? [ANY NUMBER OF ANSWERS]
   - Science
   - Scientific
   - Sciences
   - Scientist
   - Science project
   - Conscience
   - I don’t know

13) If you search for “Shores in Germany” using a search engine, which results will you get? [ONE ANSWER]
   - All documents containing the word “shore”
   - All documents containing the word “Germany”
   - All documents whose full text contains the phrase “shores in Germany”
   - No documents
   - I don’t know

14) If a search engine retrieves too many web pages, what should you do? [ANY NUMBER OF ANSWERS]
   - Use advanced search
   - Only use one search engine
   - Only look at the first ten search results
   - Use the “help” function
   - Add further search terms
   - Delete some search terms
   - I don’t know

15) If your library does not hold a certain book, how can you borrow it anyway? [ANY NUMBER OF ANSWERS]
   - Via inter-library loan
   - By going to another library
   - It’s impossible
   - I don’t know
16) Choose a broader term, a narrower term, and a related term (in that order) for the word “tree.” [ONE ANSWER]
   - Spruce, apple, trunk
   - Trunk, plant, flower
   - Plant, trunk, spruce
   - Spruce, flower, spruce
   - Plant, spruce, flower
   - I don’t know

17) Which pages are in the Deep Web? [ONE ANSWER]
   - Pages that can only be found by one search engine
   - Government pages
   - Pages in special databases
   - All pages that can be found by Google
   - I don’t know

18) What is a meta search engine? [ONE ANSWER]
   - A search engine that searches for other search engines
   - A search engine that searches in social networks
   - A search engine that searches through data from other search engines
   - I don’t know

19) To find the most up to date information, you should check:
   [ANY NUMBER OF ANSWERS]
   - A printed encyclopedia
   - A book
   - A newspaper
   - The Internet
   - I don’t know

20) Current scientific studies are first published in:
   [ANY NUMBER OF ANSWERS]
   - Books
   - Encyclopedia entries
   - Articles in scientific journals
   - Conference papers
   - I don’t know
21) A book’s call number in a library is used [ONE ANSWER]
   o to contact the author
   o to find the book in the library
   o to find the book online
   o I don’t know

22) Which books are placed side by side in a library? [ONE ANSWER]
   o Books by the same publisher
   o Books with similar content
   o Books of the same size
   o Books published in the same year
   o I don’t know

23) How can you tell whether a Wikipedia article is high-quality? [ANY NUMBER OF ANSWERS]
   o I check whether the article has bibliographical references
   o I check the comments on the article’s discussion pages
   o I check whether the article has a lot of pictures
   o I check how long the article is
   o I don’t know

24) If you want to use a database, which is the best way to find out what journals it contains? [ONE ANSWER]
   o To perform a search and look at the results
   o You don’t need to know this, because all databases cover all journals
   o To look on the “help” page or in the user manual
   o I don’t know

25) You are looking for information about the effects of air pollution on human health. Which of the listed sources is likely to be the most objective? [ONE ANSWER]
   o Automobile manufacturers
   o Medical research institute
   o Environment organization
   o Energy supplier
   o I don’t know

26) A summary of a scientific article is found: [ONE ANSWER]
   o In the abstract
   o In the bibliography
   o In the introduction
   o I don’t know
27) Which tags (keywords) would you use for the following image of the Brooklyn Bridge if you wanted to upload it to a photosharing service for other users to find? [ANY NUMBER OF ANSWERS]

- Bridge
- Brooklyn
- Water
- Brooklyn Bridge
- My_city
- East River
- House
- New York
- Photo
- Suspension bridge
- Day
- World

28) When quoting a short sentence by another author in a homework paper, how should you label this sentence? [ONE ANSWER]

- Via quotation marks “”
- Via square brackets [ ]
- Via round brackets ( )
- The sentence doesn’t have to be labeled
- I don’t know

29) When must you identify another author’s text in your own work? [ANY NUMBER OF ANSWERS]

- When using an entire sentence word by word
- When using an entire paragraph word by word
- When reproducing a paragraph in your own words
- When translating a sentence from another language
- I don’t know

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30) Why the need for citations? [ANY NUMBER OF ANSWERS]
   - To prove your own statements
   - To help you out when you can’t think of anything
   - To not pass off other people’s ideas as your own
   - I don’t know

31) Which statements must you make when quoting from a book? [ANY NUMBER OF ANSWERS]
   - Author’s last name
   - Author’s year of birth
   - Author’s place of birth
   - Date of publication
   - ISBN
   - Title
   - Total number of pages
   - Illustrator’s last name
   - Name of publisher
   - Publisher’s location
   - I don’t know

32) The following is what type of publication? [ONE ANSWER]

   - Chapter in a collection
   - Monograph
   - Chapter in a specialized journal
   - Chapter in conference proceeding
   - I don’t know

33) Take a look at the following bibliographical reference and then answer questions a-c.


   a) What is the title of the journal? [ONE ANSWER]
      - Stock, W.G.
      - Informationelle Städte im 21. Jahrhundert
      - Information – Wissenschaft und Praxis
      - I don’t know
b) How many pages is the article? [ONE ANSWER]
   - 60 pages
   - 62 pages
   - 24 pages
   - 11 pages
   - 2 pages
   - I don’t know

c) What is the volume of the above-mentioned journal? [ONE ANSWER]
   - 2
   - 62
   - 2011
   - 71-94
   - I don’t know

34) How do you sort your search results when looking for articles that have attracted the most attention in the scientific community? [ONE ANSWER]
   - By citation frequency
   - By author
   - By date of publication
   - By the length of the articles
   - I don’t know

35) What does it mean when an article has passed peer review? [ONE ANSWER]
   - The article has been checked and corrected by friends and colleagues of the author
   - The article has been checked by experts and changes have been suggested
   - The article has been edited by the publisher
   - I don’t know

36) Which of these terms describes a knowledge organization system? [ONE ANSWER]
   - Open Access
   - World Wide Web
   - Classification
   - Bibliography
   - I don’t know

37) Which of these programs are reference management systems? [ANY NUMBER OF ANSWERS]
   - Citavi
   - Mendeley
   - Facebook
   - Wikipedia
   - Bibsonomy
   - Twitter
   - Microsoft Powerpoint
   - Endnote
   - I don’t know
38) What is meant by online netiquette? [ONE ANSWER]
   o A set of rules for communicating with people online
   o This way I allow the site’s owner to use my private information
   o A seal of quality for secure web pages
   o I don’t know

39) What does it mean when a piece of information (e.g. an image) is labeled “Public Domain”? [ONE ANSWER]
   o The author is unknown
   o It is forbidden to copy it
   o You’re allowed to copy it as often as you like
   o You can only copy it for private usage
   o I don’t know

40) What does it mean when the following symbol is attached to an image on the Internet? [ANY NUMBER OF ANSWERS]
   ![Creative Commons License](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/)
   o The image may be used without any restrictions
   o The image may not be used for commercial purposes
   o The image may not be edited
   o The image may not be passed on
   o If the image is used, the original author’s name must be stated
   o The image must be passed on under the same conditions
   o I don’t know

41) Do you think that web pages often appear to be adjusted to your own individual profile (e.g. ads that precisely fit your interests)? [ONE ANSWER]
   o Yes, I think so
   o No, I don’t think so
   o I don’t know

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