

# Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery

## Information Literacy Survey 2003

**This section asks about your attitude(s) toward information literacy skills. Information literacy is defined as the ability to access, use and evaluate information from a variety of sources.**

**1. For items a - h, please indicate your comfort level with the listed skills.**

	Very Comfortable	Comfortable	Undecided/Neutral	Uncomfortable	Very Uncomfortable
a. Formulating questions based on information needs					
b. Identifying potential sources of information					
c. Developing successful search strategies					
d. Accessing sources of information, including computer-based technologies					
e. Evaluating information					
f. Organizing information for practical application					
g. Integrating new information into an existing body of knowledge					
h. Using information in critical thinking and problem solving					

**This section asks about your interaction with faculty and teachers throughout your academic career.**

**2. In responding to this question, please consider your experience with faculty in completing required assignments for courses. Please select all that apply.**

- a. Faculty member requires no use of outside materials for completing course assignments.
- b. Faculty member requires use of only lectures and assigned textbook(s) for completing course assignments.
- c. Faculty member requires use of library to retrieve reserve materials.
- d. Faculty member makes use of library materials (print and/or electronic) when presenting course material and lectures.
- e. Faculty member requires or suggests use of library materials (print and/or electronic) when assigning coursework.
- f. Faculty member invites librarians to introduce course-related library materials (print and/or electronic).

**3. Has a faculty member done any of the following? Please select all that apply.**

- a. Referred you to a specific librarian
- b. Encouraged you to seek a librarian's assistance
- c. Taken your class to the library for a librarian-led tour/orientation
- d. Taken your class to the library for one or more instruction sessions in the library and/or classroom
- e. None of the above

**4. To what extent do you feel comfortable asking your professors for assistance in locating resources to support your research? Please select all that apply.**

- a. I feel comfortable setting up an appointment with a professor for in-depth consultation regarding resources.
- b. I feel comfortable asking my professors for a few recommended titles/authors in the field.
- c. I don't feel comfortable asking professors for assistance in this area.
- d. I have never needed a professor's assistance in locating resources.

**5. How comfortable/confident do you feel when seeking information from:**

	Very Comfortable	Comfortable	Undecided/Neutral	Uncomfortable	Very Uncomfortable
a. An Internet search engine					
b. Which Internet search engine do you use? _____					
c. A library Web page					
d. A friend					
e. A professor or TA (teaching assistant) or GSA (graduate student assistant)					
f. A faculty or class Web site					
g. The library					
h. Other: _____					

**6. Have you participated in an independent study/student initiated research under the consultation of a faculty member [including research papers, thesis, dissertation]?**

- a. Yes
- b. No

**7. Have you participated in directed research/teaching practicum with a faculty member, including participation in a research project or (co)teaching a course designed by faculty?**

- a. Yes
- b. No [Skip to #11](#)

**8. If you answered YES to 6 and/or 7, please describe the nature of the relationship. Please select all that apply.**

- a. Faculty member treated me respectfully as a junior colleague.
- b. Faculty member provided constructive criticism and feedback on project/teaching effort.
- c. Faculty member often did not have time to meet with me to discuss my work.
- d. Faculty member treated me as a gopher and student help.

**9. In view of the type of relationships described in items 6 and 7, indicate how the relationship started. Please select all that apply:**

- a. Faculty member was highly regarded in subject area of interest.
- b. Had prior relationship with faculty member.
- c. Faculty member was recommended/assigned by the department.
- d. Faculty member was recommended by other students/faculty.
- e. Faculty member invited me to participate in research project/teaching course.

**10. When you were responding to questions 2 - 9, indicate where the majority of your experiences with faculty were. Please select all that apply.**

- a. UMBC
- b. Other college or university
- c. Community college
- d. High school
- e. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**11. How do you determine if your research is complete? Please select all that apply.**

- a. All relevant materials (books and articles) owned by the local library have been examined.
- b. All subject-related electronic databases have been searched.
- c. All resources suggested by professors, librarians, and/or teaching assistants have been examined.
- d. Citations and references in the books and articles you use are largely similar to each other.
- e. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**This section asks about your information seeking habits, how you develop search strategies, and how you select the most appropriate resources.**

**12. Where do you go to find information? Please select all that apply.**

- a. Use Internet search engine - Which one? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Go to the library Web page.
- c. Ask a friend.
- d. Ask a professor or TA (teaching assistant) or GSA (graduate student assistant).
- e. Use a faculty course Web site.
- f. Go to the library.
- g. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**13. Where would you go or what would you do to find current information on the following topic? - "Terrorism on college campuses". Please select all that apply.**

- a. Online--Internet
- b. Newspaper archives
- c. Encyclopedias
- d. Magazines
- e. Librarian
- f. Abstracts and indexes—print
- g. Abstracts and indexes (databases)—electronic
- h. Faculty/professors
- i. Friends/colleagues
- j. Television news
- k. Radio news
- l. Television/radio transcripts
- m. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**14. Other than 'books' and 'journals', what other types of information are you familiar with or might you use for a research project/paper? Please select all that apply.**

- a. Dissertations/theses
- b. Magazines
- c. Newspapers
- d. Web sites
- e. Diaries/letters
- f. Manuscripts
- g. Images/pictures
- h. Conference proceedings
- i. Interviews
- j. Television/radio transcripts

- k. Videos/movies/DVDs
- l. Music
- m. Television shows/broadcasts
- n. Radio shows/broadcasts
- o. Speeches
- p. None of the above
- q. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**15. This citation is from a journal index.**

**The real challenge of multiculturalism.<sup>1</sup> W. M. Chance.<sup>2</sup> The Education Digest<sup>3</sup>  
56<sup>4</sup> 34-6<sup>5</sup> May '91<sup>6</sup>**

**Match the numbered items in the citation above with the correct elements below.**

- a. Author of article
- b. Date
- c. Journal title
- d. Title of article
- e. Volume of journal
- f. Page numbers

**16. When would you consult a librarian for assistance? Please select all that apply.**

- a. You need advice about where to look for information
- b. You need help choosing the best information source
- c. You don't know how to use an information source
- d. All of the above
- e. None of the above
- f. You don't know when you would consult a librarian for assistance

**17. When conducting research in electronic databases, how often do you use the following searching techniques?**

	Very Freq.	Freq.	Occas.	Infreq.	Never
a. Truncation (Search using * or \$ as the last letter(s) of word, e. g., child*)					
b. Boolean operator "AND" (e. g., rivers AND pollution)					
c. Boolean operator "OR" (e.g., Blacks OR African Americans)					
d. Boolean operator "NOT" (e.g., dolphins NOT football)					
e. Limiters (Limit search by date, publisher, language,					

type of material)					
f. Proximity operators “NEAR”, “BETWEEN” (e.g., housing NEAR development)					
g. Cross and multiple field searching (Search more than one field at a time, such as publisher, journal title, author, descriptors, etc.)					
h. Use LCSH, ERIC descriptors or some other controlled vocabulary <sup>1</sup>					

<sup>1</sup>LCSH—Library of Congress Subject Headings; ERIC—Educational Resources Information Center

### 18. Decide whether each citation below refers to a

1. Book
  2. Book chapter
  3. Journal article
  4. Newspaper article
  5. Conference proceedings
  6. Government document
  7. Thesis or dissertation
  8. Not sure
- a. Rosen, Ralph M., and Donald R. Marks. “Comedies of transgression in gangsta rap and ancient classical poetry.” *New Literary History* 30 (1999): 897-929.
  - b. Keeling, Kara. “‘A Homegrown Revolutionary’?: Tupac Shakur and the Legacy of the Black Panther Party.” *Black Scholar* 29 (1999): 59-64.
  - c. Rhoden, William C. “After a Trying Year, Ray Lewis Triumphs.” *New York Times* 8 Jan. 2001, D3.
  - d. United States Congress. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. *Deterioration of freedom of the media in OSCE countries: hearing before the commission on Security and cooperation in Europe*. 106th Cong., 1st sess. Washington: GPO, 2000.
  - e. Woodfork, Joshua Carter. “(Dis)claiming whiteness: Homer Plessy, Tiger Woods, and racially transformed parents.” Master’s thesis. Michigan State University, 1999.
  - f. Fox, Thomas C. *Sexuality and Catholicism*. New York: G. Braziller, 2000.
  - g. Rushkoff, Douglas. “Ecstasy: Prescription for cultural renaissance.” In *Ecstasy: The complete guide: A comprehensive look at the risks and benefits of MDMA*, edited by Julie Holland, 350-357. Rochester, VT: Park Street Press, 2001.
  - h. Freed, Barbara F., ed. *Foreign language acquisition research and the classroom*. Proc. of Consortium for Language Teaching and Learning Conference, Oct. 1989, U of Pennsylvania. Lexington: Heath, 1991.

**This section asks about evaluating information effectively and efficiently, and about critical thinking skills.**

**19. Please rate each item below from 1 to 5 in terms of its usefulness in doing research: 1 = least useful; 5 = most useful.**

- a. Available in a research library
- b. Indexed in a computer database
- c. Published in a refereed journal
- d. Written by university faculty
- e. Published in a textbook
- f. Theses and dissertations

**20. When would you consider the following resources reliable when conducting research?**

	Always	Sometimes	Never
a. Sources by or recommended by scholars in the subject area			
b. Published bibliographies, including those located at the end of books and articles			
c. Sources used by other students and colleagues			
d. Sources found on the Internet			
e. Sources found in online databases			
f. Sources recommended by professors, librarians, and/or teaching assistants			
g. Conference proceedings or publications by professional associations			
h. Subject-related review articles			
i. Personal interviews			

**21. When would you use an article located on the Internet in a research project? Please select all that apply.**

- a. Article written by an individual with no known subject-related credentials
- b. Article written by an individual with a Ph.D
- c. Article written by a well-known scholar in the field
- d. Article available from a Web site ending in .edu and/or connected to school, college, or university
- e. Article published as part of proceedings of a professional organization on their Web site
- f. Full text of article available
- g. Article available from a free Web site accessible via the World Wide Web
- h. Article listed in the syllabus of a professor
- i. Not at all

**22. When researching a controversial topic in the library, such as prayer in public schools, could you evaluate an article for bias before reading it? Please select only one response.**

- a. No. I need to read an article to find bias.
- b. Yes. The abstract usually evaluates the article and notes any bias.
- c. Yes. If the article is reporting research, it should be unbiased.
- d. Yes. The reputation of a journal publisher or author may indicate bias.
- e. I don't know

**23. If searching an electronic database results in 77 citations to journal articles, how do you choose the best five articles from the 77 citations? Please select only one response.**

- a. Select the most recent articles.
- b. Look for articles published in scholarly journals.
- c. Read the abstracts and or review the subject/descriptors to find the articles most relevant to your topic.
- d. Select articles with full text only.
- d. All of the above
- e. I don't know

**24. A *credible* source is defined as one that you can rely on to be accurate and one that you would use as a reference in your research. When would you consider the following examples as *credible* sources for your research?**

	Always	Sometimes	Never
a. National Enquirer			
b. Ebony			
c. Time or Newsweek			
d. New York Post			
e. Rolling Stone/Vibe			
f. Sports Illustrated			
g. Seventeen or Vogue			
h. People			
i. Entertainment Weekly			
j. New York Times/The Washington Post/The Los Angeles Times/The Baltimore Sun			

**25. A *credible* source is defined as one that you can rely on to be accurate and one that you would use as a reference in your research. When would you consider the following *credible* news sources for your research?**

	Always	Sometimes	Never
a. Saturday Night Live’s Weekend Update with Tina Fey and Jimmy Fallon			
b. The Oprah Winfrey Show			
c. The Daily Show with Jon Stewart			
d. CNN News/Headline News			
e. Cnn.com/Headlinenews.com			
f. Wolf Blitzer Reports			
g. Crossfire/Meet the Press/The McLaughlin Group			
h. Larry King Live			
i. NPR news			
j. World News Tonight with Peter Jennings/CBS Evening News with Dan Rather/NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw/Fox News/Nightline with Ted Koppel			
k. MSNBC.com			
l. Rush Limbaugh syndicated radio show/Ken Hamblin syndicated radio show/The Howard Stern show			
m. 60 Minutes/Dateline NBC/Primetime			
n. Andy Rooney’s weekly commentary			
o. Black Entertainment Television (BET) News/BET Tonight with Ed Gordon			
p. The Today Show/Good Morning America/The Early Show			
q. The Tonight Show with Jay Leno/The Late Show with David Letterman			

**26. “Violence in American high schools” is a popular topic because it is a growing problem. Given this topic as the subject of a research project, in what order would you perform these steps. (1—the first step; 2—the second step, etc.; use 0 if you would not take a particular step)**

- a. Browse a current printed magazine index
- b. Browse the most recent issue of an education journal
- c. Search the Internet using keywords “violence” and “high schools”
- d. Look at reference material that provides an overview of violence and teenagers
- e. Brainstorm the concept, using the terms in the topic
- f. Formulate questions based on the information needed to begin the research
- g. Search subject-based and other related databases

**27. When using Web pages for your research, how important are the following:**

	Very Important	Important	Not Important	Don't Know
a. Author/source is easy to find				
b. Information is up-to-date				
c. Information is accurate (can be confirmed in other sources)				
d. Information is acceptable or approved for course assignments				
e. Availability of Web resources on your topic is adequate				

**28. After you have done your initial research for a paper, how often do you do the following?**

	Very Freq.	Freq.	Occas.	Infreq.	Never
a. Understand all of the information					
b. Discuss findings with friends and colleagues					
c. Make an outline					
d. Review the original research questions to determine if additional information is needed					
e. Discard irrelevant or useless information					
f. Revise outline based on research findings					
g. Look at materials under each outline heading and synthesize major points and concepts					

**This section asks about using information effectively for presentations and assignments.**

**29. In your academic career (high school, community college, college or universities), have you ever been given the opportunity to present your research using the following methods/formats? Please select all that apply.**

- a. Written research paper
- b. Visual project
- c. Presentation using PowerPoint or other presentation software
- d. Presentation using non-technical methods (flip charts, overhead transparencies, etc.)
- e. Web pages/site
- f. Dramatic performance (singing/dancing/recitations/musical interpretation)
- g. CD
- h. DVD
- i. VHS

- j. Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- k. None of the above

**30. If given the opportunity, which one(s) would you feel comfortable using? Please select all that apply.**

- a. Written research paper
- b. Visual project
- c. Presentation using PowerPoint or other presentation software
- d. Presentation using non-technical methods (flip charts, overhead transparencies, etc.)
- e. Web pages/site
- f. Dramatic performance (singing/dancing/recitations/musical interpretation)
- g. CD
- h. DVD
- i. VHS
- j. Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- k. None of the above

**This section asks about the ethical and legal use of information, including plagiarism and the use of copyrighted material.**

**In the following questions, the word WORK is defined as original creations including literary, dramatic, musical, artistic, and other intellectual works.**

**31. When writing up information found for a research project or for a research presentation, which of the following do you usually do? Please select all that apply.**

- a. Present what you believe the author(s) said
- b. Present what you thought your instructor wanted to hear
- c. Present the opinions of the author(s) verbatim
- d. Present your own opinions, only
- e. Present a combination of reflection and opinions (yours and author[s]')
- f. Present a combination of reflection and opinions (yours, author[s]'), and previously read material
- g. Present the opinions of the author(s) verbatim in quotation marks
- h. None of the above

**32. *Plagiarism* is presenting the work of others as though it were your own; it is dishonest and in some cases can be interpreted as theft. Which of the following are examples of *plagiarism*? Please check all that apply.**

- a. Using phrases and sentences of others as if they were your own without giving credit (to the author).
- b. Using ideas of others as if they were your own without giving credit (to the author).

- c. Copying text written by someone else and using it without quotation marks.
- d. Rewording someone else's information and using it without giving credit (to the author).
- e. Using copyrighted images from the Web without giving credit (to the creator).
- f. I don't know
- g. None of the above

**33. Copyright is a form of protection provided by the laws of the United States to the authors of "original works of authorship," including literary, dramatic, musical, artistic, and certain other intellectual works. This protection is available for both published and unpublished works.**

**If you were creating your own Web site, which of the following could you legally use on your Web page without permission?**

	Yes	No	Don't Know
a. Pictures of Britney Spears from the Internet			
b. The theme song from "Titanic" by Celine Dion			
c. Letters that you found at the National Archives written by Martha to her husband, President George Washington			
d. President George W. Bush's Inaugural Speech			
e. Pictures of Anna Kournikova scanned in from <i>Sports Illustrated</i> magazine			
f. Text you scanned in of <i>Harry Potter and The Prisoner of Azkaban</i>			
g. Text of the Homeland Security Act introduced in Congress			
h. Text of an article from <i>Newsweek</i> criticizing the Homeland Security Act that you scanned in			

**34. One of the limitations to Copyright law is the doctrine of Fair Use. This provision allows for the "fair" reproduction of a particular work for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, and research. If you were preparing an assignment for class, which of the following could you legally do?**

	Yes	No	Don't Know
a. For your research paper on Tupac Shakur, directly quote, without citing a source, a paragraph from an article titled "The Miseducation of hip-hop," published in the journal, <i>Black Issues in Higher Education</i> .			
b. Use a video clip from The Oprah Winfrey show as part of a class presentation on talk shows.			
c. Use an audio clip of "I Want to Hold Your Hand" by the Beatles as part of a class presentation on relationships.			
d. Use music from the Rolling Stones or Sean "P. Diddy" Combs as background music during a presentation.			

e. Report on and summarize an article on depression and longevity from <i>The American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry</i> in a speech for your Psychology class.			
f. Make a copy of a book chapter placed on Reserve in the Library by your professor, and take it home to read.			

**35. Plagiarism is the same thing as the *Fair Use* policy.**

- a. Yes
- b. No

**36. Suppose you are writing a research paper and you read an article on your topic. In which of the following instances would you cite the material as a footnote/endnote/reference in your paper? Please check all that apply.**

- a. When you copy a whole paragraph
  - b. When you write it over in your own words
  - c. When you quote one sentence from the article, using quotation marks
  - d. None of the above
  - e. All of the above
  - f. I don't know
- 

**This section gathers demographic and background information to assist us in analyzing the data for the UMBC population.**

**37. My academic status is**

- a. Freshman
- b. Sophomore
- c. Junior
- d. Senior
- e. Master's
- f. Doctoral
- g. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**38. Did you transfer to UMBC?**

- a. Yes
- b. No Skip to 40

**39. If yes, please list the most recent school you attended, including city and state:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**40. Area of undergraduate major or previous undergraduate work:**(Pull down menu)

**41. How important to you is learning more about the library?**

- a. Very Important
- b. Important
- c. Not Important
- d. Don't Know

**42. What do you generally use libraries for? Please select all that apply.**

- a. Check out library books
- b. Search databases for articles
- c. Check out items on Reserve
- d. Search the Internet
- e. Read e-mail/chat rooms/IM
- f. Use word processing/spreadsheet/database programs
- g. Sleep
- h. Meet friends
- i. Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- j. Do not use the library

**43. Please indicate, in general [grade school, high school, community college, etc.], how often you have received library skills instruction and learned about library resources.**

	0 Times	1-2 Times	3-4 Times	5-6 Times	7+ Times
a. Tour or physical orientation					
b. Library instruction as part of a class/course					
c. Intensive one-on-one instruction with librarian					
d. Library instruction course for credit					
e. Self-guided library tour, including use of handouts or subject guides					
f. Small group training session with librarian					
g. Online tutorial sessions for electronic resources					

**44. Which of the following best describes your experience in libraries?**

- a. Whenever I use the library, I find what I want.
- b. I can usually find what I want, but there are frustrations.

- c. Libraries are a frustrating place; I find it difficult to find the information I need.
- d. I generally avoid libraries, preferring to use personal, faculty loaned, or departmental collections.
- e. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**45. Which of the following best describes your experience in using the Internet?**

- a. Whenever I use the Internet, I find what I want.
- b. I can usually find what I want, but there are frustrations.
- c. The Internet is frustrating; I find it difficult to find the information I need.
- d. I generally avoid the Internet.
- e. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**46. How did you find out about the library's Web site?**

- a. Didn't know they had one
- b. Professors and teaching assistants
- c. Found it on my own
- d. Library workshops, tours and orientations
- e. From a librarian
- f. Friends and colleagues
- g. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**47. How often do you use the library's Web site (including links to databases, the catalog and other resources) to complete course assignments?**

- a. I use it to complete all course assignments.
- b. I use it to complete most course assignments.
- c. I use it to complete some course assignments.
- d. I don't use the library's Web site to complete any course assignments.

**48. Please select the items which describe your experience with computers. Please select all that apply.**

**I use computers for:**

- a. E-mail/chat rooms/IM
- b. Word processing/spreadsheets
- c. Searching databases
- d. Internet/World Wide Web
- e. Games/entertainment
- f. Work-related/telecommuting
- g. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**49. Have you used computers in libraries?**

- a. Yes
- b. No Skip to 51

**50. Please select the item which corresponds to your experience with library computer databases.**

- a. Very Comfortable
- b. Comfortable
- c. Undecided/Neutral
- d. Uncomfortable
- e. Very Uncomfortable

**51. Please indicate how you first learned to use the library (any library). Please select one of the following:**

- a. I learned to use the library on my own.
- b. I learned to use the library at the public library.
- c. I learned to use the library in grade school- K-8.
- d. I learned to use the library in high school- 9-12.
- e. I learned to use the library in college:
  - i. As part of freshman year
  - ii. As part of sophomore year
  - iii. As part of junior year
  - iv. As part of senior year
  - v. As part of graduate studies
- f. Other: \_\_\_\_\_