

Questions from Mellon Senior English Survey

1. How would you characterize your ability to do effective research?

Not Very Good		Fair		Excellent
1	2	3	4	5

2. Have you had any instruction in how to conduct research while at Kalamazoo College?

Yes No

From an instructor.

From a librarian who came to my class(es)

(what class(es)?) _____

From a librarian who helped me in the library.

Email message to reference@kzoo.edu or Ask a Librarian.

Other: _____

3. Please rank your level of confidence/skill in the various parts of the research process.

	Low		Fair		High
	1	2	3	4	5
Developing a topic	1	2	3	4	5
Identifying sources	1	2	3	4	5
Locating/retrieving sources	1	2	3	4	5
Seeking feedback	1	2	3	4	5
Integrating sources in the writing	1	2	3	4	5
Documenting sources (i.e., using MLA Style)	1	2	3	4	5

4. On the following continuum, rank the level of difficulty that you have in integrating the following kinds of material in a paper involving research:

	Very Difficult		Some Difficulty		No problem at all
	1	2	3	4	5
Biographical info	1	2	3	4	5
Historical background	1	2	3	4	5
Cultural information	1	2	3	4	5
Literary Criticism	1	2	3	4	5
Theoretical concepts	1	2	3	4	5
Textual Analysis	1	2	3	4	5

5.	In the initial stages of research, what sources/resources do you use to locate material relevant to your topic?						
	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Frequently	Always		
Library Catalogues							
	Ariadne	1	2	3	4	5	
	WestCat	1	2	3	4	5	
	WorldCat	1	2	3	4	5	
	Other _____	1	2	3	4	5	
Full-Text Data Bases							
	JSTOR	1	2	3	4	5	
	Project Muse	1	2	3	4	5	
	LexisNexis	1	2	3	4	5	
	Wilson Select	1	2	3	4	5	
	Other _____	1	2	3	4	5	
Journal Indexes							
	MLA Bibliography	1	2	3	4	5	
	ArticlesFirst	1	2	3	4	5	
	Humanities Abstracts	1	2	3	4	5	
	Other _____	1	2	3	4	5	
Internet Search Engines (Google, Yahoo, etc.)							
	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Frequently	Always		
People							
	Library Staff (e.g., reference librarian)	1	2	3	4	5	
	Instructor (e.g., out-of-class meeting)	1	2	3	4	5	
	Fellow Students, friends	1	2	3	4	5	
	Parent, Relative.	1	2	3	4	5	
	Other _____	1	2	3	4	5	
References							
	Encyclopedias, bibliographies, or other reference materials		1	2	3	4	5
	Using citations and notes from materials already in your possession		1	2	3	4	5
6.	In the final draft of your research project, what materials have you integrated?						
	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Frequently	Always		
Books/book chapters located through:							
	Ariadne						
	WestCat						
	WorldCat (Interlibrary loan)						
	Other _____						
Articles, located through journal indexes:							
	MLA Bibliography						
	ArticlesFirst						
	Humanities Abstracts						
	Other _____						
Articles, located through full-text databases:							
	JSTOR						
	Project Muse						
	LexisNexis						
	Wilson Select						
	Other _____						
Website Resources, located through Search Engines (Google, Yahoo, etc.)							
	Other _____						

7. If you have trouble finding useful material after first getting started, what do you do next?
- | | | | | |
|-------|--------|-----------|------------|--------|
| Never | Rarely | Sometimes | Frequently | Always |
|-------|--------|-----------|------------|--------|
- Ask another student for help.
 Ask your instructor for help.
 Ask a librarian for help.
 Ask someone else for help (who?)_____
- I do not seek assistance.
 I suffer.

8. What kind of help would you consider most useful if you had trouble with research?

	Least Useful		Useful		Most Useful
	1	2	3	4	5
Classroom discussion directed by my professor.					
Individual consultation with my professor.					
Individual, one-on-one help from a librarian.					
Classroom presentation given by a librarian.					
A skilled, experienced peer shows me what to do.					

1. To find out whether the K College library owns the book *King Leopold's Ghost*, which would you search? (circle one)

Web search engine

Online library catalog

Periodical database

2. K College Library only has one book on your topic. List the places where you can find additional books.

a.

b.

c.

3. If you need to find a journal article on Baroque architecture, which would you search? (circle one)

Web search engine

Online library catalog

Periodical database

4. Please describe the following three things:

a) database: _____

b) website: _____

c) catalog: _____

5. What are the differences between Google, JSTOR, and MLA Bibliography?

6. What is the best way to find a scholarly journal article on a given topic? (circle one)

(a) page through print volumes of academic journals

(b) search a general Web search engine like Google or Yahoo!

(c) search a print index or periodical database

(d) search the online library catalog

7. Put an X by the elements that are important in finding an article:

___ Date (Month, Day, Year)

___ Issue Number

___ Title of Publication

___ Title of Article

___ Volume Number

___ Page Numbers

___ Author

___ Subject

___ Season of Year

___ Place of Publication

___ Name of Publisher

___ Abstract

8. If you need to find books about Toni Morrison, which of the following would be the best search? (circle one)

Title = Morrison

Author = Morrison

Keyword = Morrison

9. Please circle all of the following periodical titles you would consider scholarly:

a. Sports Illustrated

b. Comparative Literature Studies

c. Time

d. Rolling Stone

e. Shakespeare Quarterly

10. List three differences between a scholarly (peer-reviewed) journal and a popular magazine or newspaper:

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

11. Name three facts you consider when you are evaluating the quality of a website:

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

12. Describe how you would determine whether a Web site is a good source to use in a research paper.

A. **PRIOR TO** information literacy session on April 29th, 2003....

(Please indicate your level of confidence)

Low

High

I. Where to look for information

1. I could use Ariadne to find a book in the K College Library.	1	2	3	4	5
2. I could use InMICH to find and order a book from another library in Michigan.	1	2	3	4	5
3. I knew how to request a book or an article through InterLibrary Loan.	1	2	3	4	5
4. I knew the difference between the World Wide Web and the Internet.	1	2	3	4	5
5. I knew the difference between a research database and the Internet.	1	2	3	4	5
6. I knew the difference between a database and a website.	1	2	3	4	5
7. I knew how to select the appropriate database for my research topic.	1	2	3	4	5

II. Searching

8. I knew all the steps in the research process.	1	2	3	4	5
9. I knew the difference between 'keywords' and 'subject headings.'	1	2	3	4	5
10. I knew how to find a topic and narrow it for a research project.	1	2	3	4	5
11. I knew what 'Boolean operators' are and how to use them.	1	2	3	4	5

III. Obtaining sources

12. I visited all floors of the K Library and knew where the books were located.	1	2	3	4	5
13. I understood how to use the Library of Congress call numbers to find books.	1	2	3	4	5
14. I could use an index to find articles in print and on microfilm about a topic.	1	2	3	4	5
15. I was familiar with searching on JSTOR, and Lexis-Nexis.	1	2	3	4	5

V. Evaluating Sources

16. I understood the difference between scholarly and non scholarly sources.	1	2	3	4	5
17. I knew the difference between scholarly and popular articles.	1	2	3	4	5
18. I knew how to evaluate websites before I used them for research projects.	1	2	3	4	5
19. I knew the difference between primary and secondary research materials.	1	2	3	4	5

B. AFTER the information literacy session on April 29th, 2003....

(Please indicate your level of confidence)

Low

High

I. Where to look for information

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. I can use Ariadne to find a book in the K College Library. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2. I can use InMICH to find and order a book from another library in Michigan. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3. I know how to request a book or an article through InterLibrary Loan. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4. I know the difference between the World Wide Web and the Internet. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5. I know the difference between a research database and the Internet. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6. I know how to select the appropriate database for my research topic. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

II. Searching

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7. I know all the steps in the research process. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8. I know the difference between 'keywords' and 'subject headings.' | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 9. I know how to find a topic and narrow it for a research project. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 10. I know what 'Boolean operators' are and how to use them in a search strategy. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

III. Obtaining sources

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11. I have visited all floors of the K Library and know where books are located. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 12. I understand how to use the Library of Congress call numbers to find books. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 13. I can use an index to find articles in print and on microfilm about a topic. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 14. I am familiar with searching on JSTOR, and Lexis-Nexis. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

V. Evaluating Sources

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 15. I understand the difference between scholarly and non scholarly sources. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 16. I know the difference between scholarly and popular articles. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 17. I know how to evaluate websites before I use them for research projects. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 18. I know the difference between primary and secondary research materials. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |