

**Library Instruction SAO Information Literacy Pre-test**

1. When researching a topic, one of the first steps is developing a search strategy. An important part of this includes:
  - a. Locating books using the library's online catalog
  - b. Searching a computer database for articles
  - c. Analyzing your topic to identify alternative keywords/concepts
  - d. Checking the Internet for background information on your topic
  
2. Which source will most likely provide you with objective (non-biased) information on the topic of climate change?
  - a. A report from a clean-air non-profit organization
  - b. A study from a peer-reviewed periodical on climate change
  - c. A website advocating that climate change was 'invented' by loony scientists
  - d. An annual report from a renewable energy company
  
3. An advanced Google search which is looking for PDF type documents on government websites regarding gun laws in California might look like this:
  - a. Semi-automatics in California site:.edu
  - b. Guns in California site:.gov filetype:doc
  - c. gun laws california site:.gov filetype:pdf
  - d. "gun law in California" site:.gov
  
4. If you are writing a paper on Gun Control and you use the NRA (National Rifle Association) as a source, which website evaluation criterion should you consider?
  - a. URL/Domain (e.g. .com, .edu, .gov, .mil, .net, .org)
  - b. Currency
  - c. Bias
  - d. Overall quality of the website
  
5. If you need to research an event which occurred yesterday, what source should you consult first?
  - a. General book on the subject
  - b. Magazine article
  - c. Journal article
  - d. Newspaper article

6. What is the best resource to use to find peer-reviewed journal articles by scholars and other subject experts?
  - a. Library Catalog
  - b. Online library-provided subscription databases
  - c. Periodical index
  - d. Web search engines such as Google
  
7. Which of the following best defines the term "periodicals"?
  - a. Tables that provide scientific information
  - b. Publications that are published with regular lengths of time between issues, such as magazines, journals, or newspapers.
  - c. Specialized encyclopedias
  - d. Specialized bibliographies
  
8. Which is the best strategy when you find too much information?
  - a. Broaden your question
  - b. Narrow your question
  - c. Change your topic
  - d. Only use the first few results
  
9. When searching the Internet you should keep in mind...
  - a. That you can find any information online if you just search long enough
  - b. That banner ads and chat rooms will often lead you to the best quality information
  - c. That because of copyright laws, nothing worthwhile is ever published on the Internet
  - d. That not all online sources provide reliable or authoritative information
  
10. Match the correct answers below by entering the appropriate letter in the checkbox.

A. Popular magazine    B. Scholarly journal    C. Trade publication

\_\_\_ is a publication that consists of articles written by specialists, most of them having been reviewed by peer specialists prior to publication.

\_\_\_ is a publication that focuses on a specific profession such as video production, aviation, interior design, publishing, etc.

\_\_\_ covers mainstream news and the articles are written mostly by staff or freelance writers.

