

**Pre-Test Information Literacy Questionnaire for Biology 3100  
September 2007**

The purpose of this Pre-test questionnaire is to find out how Library and Information Literacy Skills Instruction could benefit students enrolled in the Honours Biology program at York.

Your responses are entirely anonymous, and will not be marked.

Please take 10-15 minutes to answer the following 28 questions. If you don't know an answer, please mark it as "I don't know", rather than guessing, as this will give us an indication of what areas to focus on in our teaching.

1. Have you ever attended any of the following? Please check all that apply.
  - a. Library orientation
  - b. Hands-on library workshop
  - c. Refworks session
  
2. From the following list, please circle the databases that you have used to search for biological information:
  - a. Library Catalogue
  - b. Biological Abstracts
  - c. Web of Science
  - d. Pubmed or Medline
  - e. Scifinder Scholar
  - f. General Science Index
  - g. Google Scholar
  - h. Other (please name): \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Publications such as magazines and journals are called:
  - a. newsgroups
  - b. periodicals
  - c. biographies
  - d. indexes
  - e. I don't know
  
4. The best place to look for a broad introduction to a topic such as biodiversity is:
  - a. journal article
  - b. encyclopaedia
  - c. book
  - d. video
  - e. I don't know
  
5. Which information resource is best for information about something which happened a month ago?

- a. journal article
- b. newspaper article
- c. book
- d. videos
- e. I don't know

6. Books in an academic library are shelved by:

- a. author
- b. ISBN number
- c. title
- d. call number
- e. I don't know

7. Please draw a circle around the pieces of information in this library catalogue record which will enable you to find this book on the library shelves (display screen capture of catalogue record for a book):

**QL 698.95 W45 1999**  
**Wetland birds : habitat resources and conservation implications**  
**Weller, Milton Webster.**

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Personal author: Weller, Milton Webster.  
 Title: Wetland birds : habitat resources and conservation implications / Milton W. Weller.

Publication info: Cambridge ; New York : Cambridge University Press, 1999.  
 Physical description: xv, 271 p., [26] p. of plates : ill. ; 26 cm.  
 Bibliography note: Includes bibliographical references and indexes.  
 ISBN: 0521633265 (hb)  
 ISBN: 0521633621 (pb)  
 Subject: Water birds--Ecology.  
 Subject: Wetland animals--Ecology.  
 Subject: Birds, Protection of.

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Call Numbers	Material	Holds	Location
1) QL 698.95 W45 1999	STEAC-BOOK		STEACIE

8. A scholarly article is published in a

- a. journal
- b. magazine
- c. newspaper
- d. pamphlet
- e. I don't know

9. Which of the following citations describes a scholarly journal article?

- a. Burton ED, Bush RT, Sullivan LA. 2006. Acid-volatile sulfide oxidation in coastal flood plain drains: Iron-sulfur cycling and effects on water quality. Environmental Science and Technology 40:1217-22.

- b. Cox DD. 2002. A naturalist's guide to wetland plants : An ecology for eastern North America. 1st ed. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press. 194 p.
- c. Davies CM, Logan MR, Rothwell VJ, Krogh M, Ferguson CM, Charles K, Deere DA, Ashbolt NJ. 2006. Soil inactivation of DNA viruses in septic seepage. *J Appl Microbiol* 100(2):365-74.
- d. Harder B. 2005. Moon's phases predict water quality at beaches. *Sci News* 168:4-5.
- e. I don't know

10. This is a citation to what kind of Resource?

Mortch L, Snell E, Ingram J. 2006. Climate variability and change within the context of the Great Lakes Basin. In : Mortch L, Ingram J, Hebb A, Doka S, editors. *Communities: vulnerability to climate change and response to adaptation strategies* [Ottawa]: Environment Canada. p 9-20.

- a. journal article
- b. magazine article
- c. chapter in a book
- d. dissertation
- e. I don't know

11. To identify books in a library collection you would search:

- a. Books in Print
- b. Internet
- c. library catalogue
- d. bibliography
- e. I don't know

12. You can use the York University Libraries' catalogue to find:

- a. all books published in Canada
- b. books for sale
- c. books and videos owned by the York University libraries
- d. articles on a topic owned by the York University Libraries
- e. I don't know

13. Which of the following generally cannot be found using a library catalogue

- a. government publications
- b. videos
- c. books
- d. articles
- e. I don't know

14. In most cases to find scholarly articles on a topic, you would use:

- a. library catalogue
- b. periodical index

- c. online newspaper
- d. internet search engine
- e. I don't know

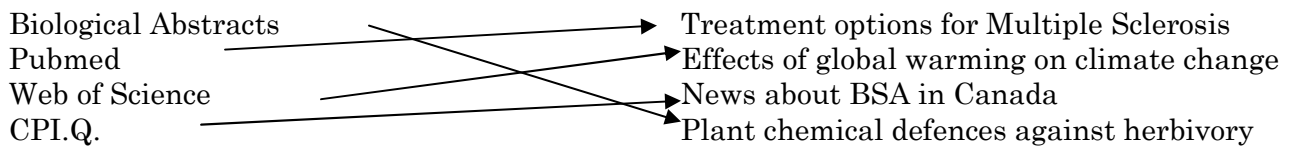
15. You want to find journal articles on a topic and don't know which database or periodical index to use. Which of the following links on the Libraries' home page would link you to a list of databases and other resources in your subject area?

- a. Find eResources by title
- b. Search the Internet
- c. Keyword -under Catalogue Menu
- d. Find Articles by Subject
- e. I don't know

16. You have a reference or citation to a journal article. To determine whether York University libraries owns this article online you could search:

- a. Title Quick Search box (e-resources option)
- b. Title Quick Search box (catalogue option)
- c. Periodical Index
- d. a. or b. above
- e. I don't know

17. Match each of the following databases to the topic for which you think they would be most suited:



18. You have the following citation. What would you search in the library catalogue to determine if this publication is available in hardcopy in the collection?

Mumm R, Hilker M. 2006. Direct and indirect chemical defence of pine against folivorous insects. Trends in Plant Science 11(7): 351-358.

- a. journal title
- b. author's name
- c. title of the article
- d. journal title and volume
- e. I don't know

19. When using the Library catalogue, generally the best way to start searching for books on a topic is to search by:

- a. keyword
- b. subject

- c. author
- d. call number
- e. I don't know

20. To find the following citation you could search a catalogue using (*select all that apply*):

Normanly J, Slovin JP, Cohen JD. 2004. Auxin Biosynthesis and metabolism. In: Davies PJ, editor. Plant hormones: biosynthesis, signal transduction, action! 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Amsterdam: Kluwer Academic Publishers. p 36-62.

- a. title= Auxin Biosynthesis and metabolism
- b. author= Normanly J,
- c. title= Plant hormones: biosynthesis, signal transduction, action!
- d. author= Davies PJ
- e. I don't know

21. You are asked to find scholarly books and articles for an essay topic as follows: *What evidence is there that plants protect themselves chemically from herbivory by invertebrates?*

Which of the following search strings would work best typed in the search box of the library catalogue or database:

- a. What evidence is there that plants protect themselves chemically from herbivory by invertebrates?
- b. Plants AND herbivory AND invertebrates
- c. Plants OR herbivory OR invertebrates
- d. Evidence of protection
- e. I don't know

22. When searching a library catalogue, which search will find the MOST records:

- a. plant AND defense
- b. plant\$ AND (defen\$ OR protect\$)
- c. plant NOT defense
- d. plant defense against insect herbivores
- e. I don't know

23. To retrieve all variations on the word "herbivory", which form would be best?

- a. herbivore\*
- b. herb\*
- c. herbivour\*
- d. herbivo?r\*
- e. I don't know

24. Below is an article found using Biological Abstracts:

**TI:** The role of neuropeptides in caterpillar nutritional ecology  
**AU:** Bede,-Jacqueline-C [Author,-Reprint-Author]; McNeil,-Jeremy-N [Author]; Tobe,-Stephen-S [Author]  
**SO:** Peptides-(New-York). 2007; 28(1): 185-196  
**PY:** 2007  
**DT:** Literature-Review; Article  
**LA:** English  
**AB:** **Plant** diet strongly impacts the fitness of **insect herbivores**. Immediately, we think of **plant defensive** compounds that may act as feeding deterrents or toxins. We are, probably, less aware that **plants** also influence **insect** growth and fecundity through their nutritional quality. However, most **herbivores** respond to their environment and select the diet which optimizes their growth and development. This regulation of nutritional balance may occur on many levels: through selecting and ingesting appropriate **plant** tissue and nutrient digestion, absorption and utilization. Here, we review evidence of how nutritional requirements, particularly leaf protein to digestible carbohydrate ratios, affect caterpillar **herbivores**. We propose a model where midgut endocrine cells assess and integrate hemolymph nutritional status and gut content and release peptides which influence digestive processes. Understanding the effects of diet on the **insect**

In which journal would you find this article?

- a. The role of neuropeptides in caterpillar nutritional ecology
- b. **Peptides**
- c. Literature Review
- d. I don't know

25. A peer reviewed article is:

- a. An article that has been presented at a conference to a group of fellow researchers
- b. **An article that has been evaluated by other researchers in the same or related field for assessment of technical and scientific merit before being accepted for publication.**
- c. An article that has been posted in a researcher's personal website for other researchers to read and review.
- d. All of the above
- e. I don't know

26. Which of these statements describes the scope of Google scholar?

- a. Google Scholar searches exclusively for peer reviewed articles that are freely available on the web.
- b. **Google Scholar searches for peer-reviewed and non-peer reviewed articles as well as websites and grey literature with scholarly content.**
- c. All of the above
- d. I don't know

27. Which of the following statements are true about Wikipedia?

- a. Because anyone can edit the articles in Wikipedia, the information is always up-to-date, accurate and reliable.
- b. **Because anyone can edit the articles in Wikipedia, the information is not necessarily accurate and reliable.**
- c. **Wikipedia is a good place to start when you want to find general information about a topic.**

- d. Wikipedia should not be used without verifying the information in reliable sources such as primary research articles, review articles, field guides, websites and databanks that are produced by recognized research organizations.
- e. All of the above
- f. I don't know

28. Which of the following statements are true about the internet?

- a. The most reliable information on the web is from the websites of museums, recognized research organizations, scientific societies, and government agencies.
- b. Most of the information available on the internet has undergone a rigorous peer-review process and so can be used as a reference for writing research papers.
- c. Most of the information on the internet has not been checked for accuracy of content, and so should not be used without careful screening and evaluation.
- d. One should only use information on the Web that is offered by a recognized authority on the subject or that can be verified using other sources.
- e. All of the above
- f. I don't know