

College of Southern Nevada

College Library Services

Information Literacy Exam

The 20 questions below will test your ability to find, evaluate and cite information from a variety of sources. Select the most appropriate answer for each question.

1. For your history class you are asked to find a book that details the causes of U.S. Civil War. To locate a book you would use:
 - A. A research database
 - B. The library catalog
 - C. The college bookstore
 - D. A search engine

2. The broadest type of search, which looks for your terms anywhere, is:
 - A. Subject search
 - B. Title search
 - C. Author search
 - D. Keyword search

3. You're writing a paper on climate change, but you first need to find a brief explanation of "greenhouse gases" for your introduction. What would be the **best** source for finding some credible, brief background information?
 - A. Search for journal articles about "greenhouse gases"
 - B. Search for books on climate change in the library catalog
 - C. Look up "greenhouse gases" in a reference source like the "Encyclopedia of Global Warming and Climate Change"
 - D. Use a search engine to locate web sites that mention "greenhouse gases"

4. The *Congressional Record*, produced daily by the U.S. Government, is a verbatim account of what takes place on the floor of the House and Senate – it reads like a transcript. The *Congressional Record* would be an example of:
- A. A primary source document
 - B. A secondary source document
5. Which item CANNOT be found in the library catalog?
- A. Journal Title
 - B. Journal Article
 - C. Book
 - D. DVD
6. When evaluating the credibility of information found on a web site it is important to consider:
- A. Accuracy of information
 - B. Currency of information
 - C. Authority – expertise of the author
 - D. Objectivity – unbiased information
 - E. All of the above
7. You need to find current journal articles about stem cell research for a biology class. What is the best way to get started?
- A. Ask your friend
 - B. Search for web sites using Google
 - C. Use a library research database
 - D. Search the library catalog for books on stem cell research
8. Paraphrasing, or summarizing the words and ideas of someone else, without giving credit in your research paper is **not** considered plagiarism:
- A. True
 - B. False

9. Geology class debate topic: "Yucca Mountain is not a safe location to store nuclear waste, since geologic faults may cause earthquakes." What are the **two most important keywords** would you use to look up information in the library catalog and research databases?

1. _____

2. _____

10. The "call number" which you find for any book in the library catalog:

- A. Tells where the book is shelved in the library
- B. Is the number to call the reference desk for help
- C. Tells how many books have been found with your search
- D. Is the date the book was published

11. The following MLA citation is an example of what type of information source?

Bryson, Robert. Evolution: A Historical Perspective. New York: Greenwood Press, 2008.

- A. Magazine article
- B. Book
- C. Web Site
- D. Newspaper article

12. Books in the library are organized by:

- A. Year of publication
- B. Subject
- C. Alphabetically by title
- D. Alphabetically by author

13. You are looking for United States population statistics to support an argument in a research paper you are writing. Which web site below would provide the most reliable numbers?

- A. www.census.com
- B. www.census.org
- C. www.census.gov
- D. www.census.net

14. You're using a research database to locate articles for a short paper on: "the possible health effects of consuming genetically modified food." What search strategy below would give you the best results?

- A. "health effects of consuming genetically modified food"
- B. Health effects OR genetically modified food
- C. Possible health effects AND consuming genetically modified food
- D. Health AND genetically modified food

15. Where in the library would you go to get personal help locating books and articles for a persuasive speech?

- A. Circulation
- B. Interlibrary loan
- C. Reference
- D. Reserves

16. An article **abstract** is:

- A. The name of the journal, the author, and publication information
- B. A brief summary of the article's content
- C. The full text of the article
- D. A list of references at the end of the article

17. Below is an APA citation for a scholarly journal article. What is the title of the journal?

Able, J. F., Basu, A., & Rees, B. C. (2008). The evolution of massive black holes in spiral galaxies. *Modern Astrophysics*, 48(2), 80-98. Retrieved June 14, 2008, from Academic Search Premier database.

18. Research databases available from the CSN library web site can be accessed 24/7 from any location by:

- A. Anyone with internet access, since they are free
- B. Anyone who has ever attended CSN
- C. Students currently enrolled in any CSN class
- D. All Nevada residents with a valid library card

19. Information you find on the Internet:

- A. Comes from a variety of sources, such as business, the government, or private citizens
- B. Is much more reliable than books, magazines, and journals
- C. Is required by international law to be accurate, current, and unbiased
- D. Is factual since Internet content is monitored by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)

20. For a psychology class you are asked to write a brief four page paper on some aspect of: “**eating disorders.**” Full length books have been written on this topic. So, how might you **narrow** this broad topic for a four page paper?

Your narrow topic_____