Research Skills Check-Up For Civil Engineers **Name_____**

These questions will help you gauge your research skills. Select one answer for each question.

1.) To get assistance with your research, you would go to the....

a. ❑ Reserve Desk
b. ❑ Media Center
c. ❑ Reference Desk
d. ❑ Special Collections
e. ❑ Circulation Desk
f. ❑ Don't Know

2.) The Library of Congress call number system organizes the library's books and journals by...

a. ❑ subject
b. ❑ author
c. ❑ title
d. ❑ book color
e. ❑ book size
f. ❑ don't know

3.) Of the choices below, which would be most appropriate for obtaining a broad overview of your topic?

a. ❑ a dictionary
b. ❑ an abstract
c. ❑ an almanac
d. ❑ a handbook
e. ❑ a microfilm
f. ❑ don't know

4.) A bibliography is ...

a. ❑ a book about a person
b. ❑ a book about places
c. ❑ a list of references
d. ❑ don't know

5.) To search for books owned by the Virginia Tech Libraries, you would use...

a. ❑ a periodical index
b. ❑ the online catalog, Addison
c. ❑ an Internet search engine
d. ❑ don't know

6.) Virginia Tech's online catalog, Addison, DOES NOT contain information about....

a. ❑ books
b. ❑ VT dissertations
c. ❑ journals
d. ❑ videos
e. ❑ individual journal articles
f. ❑ don't know

7.) Given the following journal article citation information, how would you search the online catalog, Addison, to determine if Virginia Tech has this item?

Author: **R. Popescu**
Title: **Effects of spatial variability on soil liquefaction**
Journal: ***Geotechnique* v. 47, n. 5, Dec 1997**

a. ❑ Do a title search on "Effects of spatial variability on soil liquefaction"
b. ❑ Do an author search on R. Popescu
c. ❑ Do a keyword search on "Effects of spatial variability on soil liquefaction"
d. ❑ Do a journal title search on *Geotechnique*
e. ❑ Don't Know

OVER

8.) The best way to find citations and abstracts for journal articles in Civil Engineering is to search . .

a. ❑ Compendex
b. ❑ the online catalog, Addison
c. ❑ Web of Science
d. ❑ Google
e. ❑ INSPEC
f. ❑ don't know

9.) The best way to find out who has cited a journal article is to search for the journal article in . . .

a. ❑ Compendex
b. ❑ the online catalog, Addison
c. ❑ Web of Science
d. ❑ Google
e. ❑ INSPEC
f. ❑ don't know

10.) An index such as the ASCE CE Database . . .

a. ❑ gives the year an article was published
b. ❑ lists all the authors of an article
c. ❑ gives the page numbers of the article
d. ❑ can link to the online full text of the article
e. ❑ none of the above
f. ❑ all of the above

11.) In most of the Libraries' electronic databases, which search statement listed below would retrieve the best information about oil spills in Alaska?

a. ❑ oil spills or Alaska
b. ❑ oil spills not Alaska
c. ❑ oil spills and Alaska
d. ❑ Exxon Valdez and Alaska
e. ❑ Exxon Valdez or Alaska
f. ❑ don't know

12.) For most of the Libraries' electronic databases, which search statement would retrieve the FEWEST records?

a. ❑ bridges and roads
b. ❑ bridges or roads
c. ❑ bridges
d. ❑ roads
e. ❑ bridges or roads or highways
f. ❑ don't know

13.) In the previous question, *and* and *or* are ...

a. ❑ keywords
b. ❑ subject headings
c. ❑ boolean operators
d. ❑ don't know

14.) Which of the following products index primarily peer reviewed material?

a. ❑ Google and Compendex
b. ❑ Google and INSPEC
c. ❑ INSPEC and Compendex
d. ❑ don't know

15.) Using products such as Google is a good way to find . .

a. ❑ citations to peer reviewed literature and information about professional societies
b. ❑ URLs for government agencies and citations to peer reviewed literature
c. ❑ information about professional societies and URLs for government agencies
d. ❑ don't know