

University Libraries, Virginia Tech - Research Skills Survey

The purpose of this survey is to help your professor and librarian gauge your research skills. For the following questions please select **one** answer.

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve Desk | 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Reference Desks |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Center for Alternative Media (CAM) | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> don't know |

2.) The Library of Congress call number system organizes our books and magazines by...

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> subject | 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Title |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> author | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> don't know |

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> a dictionary | 3. <input type="checkbox"/> an almanac |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> an encyclopedia | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> don't know |

4.) A bibliography is ...

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> a book about a person | 3. <input type="checkbox"/> a list of references or citations |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> a book about places | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> don't know |

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> a periodical index | 3. <input type="checkbox"/> the Internet |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> the online catalog (Addison) | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> don't know |

6.) To identify journal articles written on your topic, you would search...

- a periodical index or database
- Internet
- the online catalog (Addison)
- don't know

OVER → → → → → →

7.) In most of the Libraries' electronic databases, which of the keyword searches listed below would retrieve information about oil spills in Alaska?

- 1. oil spills or alaska
- 2. oil spills not alaska
- 3. oil spills and alaska
- 4. don't know

8.) In the previous question, **and**, **or**, and **not** are...

- 1. keywords
- 2. subject headings
- 3. boolean operators (connectors)
- 4. don't know

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

ERIC NO: EJ552875 AUTHOR: Morris, Helen TITLE: Resources for Games and Puzzles in the Maths Classroom. YEAR: 1997 SOURCE: Mathematics in School (v26 n4 p44-45 Sep 1997)
--

- 1. I would do a title search to search for the article's title
- 2. I would do an author search to search for the author's name
- 3. I would do a keyword search to search for the year
- 4. I would do a title search to search for the journal's title
- e. I don't know

10.) How would you rate your ability to use the Libraries to find and retrieve information?

- 1. excellent
- 2. pretty good
- 3. so-so
- 4. pretty bad
- e. terrible

Thank you for completing this survey!!