

**The ERIAL Project
Illinois Wesleyan University**

Gateway Information Literacy Test¹ Results
Fall 2009

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Full Pre-test and Post-test Results Organized by ACRL Standard and Question Number

Standard 1

“The information literate student determines the nature and extent of the information needed.”

Std. 1	Pre-test	Post-test
Mean Score	4.5/6	4.7/6
Percent Correct	75.7%	78.8%

1. You need to research an aspect of the topic “Hispanic children and public schools.” Which one of the following would be an appropriate research question?

- a. Does bilingual education help children attending public schools?
- b. Should all school children receive free lunches?
- c. Should states require standardized testing for religious schools?
- d. Do labor unions help teachers keep their jobs?

Question_1 * Test Crosstabulation

		Test		Total	
		1	2		
Question_1	A	Count	259	257	516
		% within Test	98.5%	98.1%	98.3%
	B	Count	1	2	3
		% within Test	.4%	.8%	.6%
	C	Count	3	2	5
		% within Test	1.1%	.8%	1.0%
	D	Count	0	1	1
		% within Test	.0%	.4%	.2%

¹ The IWU information literacy test is based on a modified version of the Information Competency Exam developed by the Bay Area Community Colleges Information Competency Assessment Project. For more information on this project, see <http://www.topsy.org>.

Total	Count	263	262	525
	% within Test	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

2. You are writing a paper for your ecology class. You first need information defining the term “watershed.” What is your best choice for getting some brief background information?

- a. Search for “watershed” in the library’s online catalog.
- b. Find journal articles about “watershed.”
- c. Look up “watershed” in a general reference source like an encyclopedia.
- d. Type “watershed” in an Internet search engine.

Question_2 * Test Crosstabulation

		Test		Total
		1	2	
Question_2	Count	1	1	2
	% within Test	.4%	.4%	.4%
A	Count	10	14	24
	% within Test	3.8%	5.3%	4.6%
B	Count	4	10	14
	% within Test	1.5%	3.8%	2.7%
C	Count	187	208	395
	% within Test	71.1%	79.4%	75.2%
D	Count	61	29	90
	% within Test	23.2%	11.1%	17.1%
Total	Count	263	262	525
	% within Test	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

3. Which group of keywords best describes the information needed for the following assignment: “Prepare a presentation about the gains achieved by women in the 1980s.”

- a. Presentation, women, gains
- b. Women, gains, achieved
- c. Women, gains, 1980s
- d. Gains, achieved, 1980s

Question_3 * Test Crosstabulation

		Test		Total	
		1	2		
Question_3	A	Count	1	0	1

	% within Test	.4%	.0%	.2%
B	Count	1	0	1
	% within Test	.4%	.0%	.2%
C	Count	261	261	522
	% within Test	99.2%	99.6%	99.4%
D	Count	0	1	1
	% within Test	.0%	.4%	.2%
Total	Count	263	262	525
	% within Test	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

4. Which of the following is **not** a secondary source?
- Encyclopedia article
 - Letters
 - Newspaper article reporting about a research study
 - Biography

Question_4 * Test Crosstabulation

			Test		Total
			1	2	
Question_4	A	Count	34	27	61
		% within Test	12.9%	10.3%	11.6%
	B	Count	169	179	348
		% within Test	64.3%	68.3%	66.3%
C		Count	14	15	29
		% within Test	5.3%	5.7%	5.5%
D		Count	46	41	87
		% within Test	17.5%	15.6%	16.6%
Total		Count	263	262	525
		% within Test	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

20. What is an example of a primary source of information?
- A dataset from the US Census Bureau
 - A research article from a scientific journal
 - An interview transcript from an oral history archive
 - A textbook
 - Both a and c

Question_20 * Test Crosstabulation

			Test		Total
			1	2	
Question_20	A	Count	23	18	41
		% within Test	8.7%	6.9%	7.8%
	B	Count	18	21	39
		% within Test	6.8%	8.0%	7.4%
	C	Count	55	78	133
		% within Test	20.9%	29.8%	25.3%
	D	Count	39	27	66
		% within Test	14.8%	10.3%	12.6%
	E	Count	128	118	246
		% within Test	48.7%	45.0%	46.9%
Total	Count	263	262	525	
	% within Test	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

22. Which of the following statements is true about popular magazines (such as Newsweek) and scholarly journals (such as American Sociological Review) ?

- a. Scholarly periodicals never have advertisements
- b. Articles in scholarly periodicals are written by authorities in the field
- c. Popular periodicals usually cite sources
- d. All articles in scholarly periodicals contain charts and/or graphs

Question_22 * Test Crosstabulation

			Test		Total
			1	2	
Question_22	A	Count	6	13	19
		% within Test	2.3%	5.0%	3.6%
	B	Count	190	215	405
		% within Test	72.2%	82.1%	77.1%
	C	Count	61	33	94
		% within Test	23.2%	12.6%	17.9%

D	Count	6	1	7
	% within Test	2.3%	.4%	1.3%
Total	Count	263	262	525
	% within Test	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Standard 2

“The information literate student accesses needed information effectively and efficiently.”

Std. 2	Pre-test	Post-Test
Mean Score	5.3/9	5.6/9
Percent Correct	59.2%	61.7%

5. The Ames Library’s online catalog contains:

- a. Information about books, videos and other non-print items in the library.
- b. The complete text of all the journal articles in the library.
- c. Information about the college’s courses.
- d. Answers a. and b.

Question_5 * Test Crosstabulation

		Test		Total
		1	2	
Question_5	Count	0	1	1
	% within Test	.0%	.4%	.2%
A	Count	47	55	102
	% within Test	17.9%	21.0%	19.4%
B	Count	0	6	6
	% within Test	.0%	2.3%	1.1%
C	Count	1	1	2
	% within Test	.4%	.4%	.4%
D	Count	215	199	414
	% within Test	81.7%	76.0%	78.9%
Total	Count	263	262	525
	% within Test	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

6. For your health class, you’re writing a 5 page paper on the benefits of aerobic exercise. What would be the best approach to researching this topic?

- a. Get an overview about the topic from a commercial Web site, then get recent/more specific information from magazine articles.
- b. Get scholarly journal articles for recent/very specific information about the topic.
- c. Get an overview of the topic from a current encyclopedia on exercise and health, then get more recent/more specific information from scholarly journal articles.
- d. Get an overview of the topic from a health encyclopedia.

Question_6 * Test Crosstabulation

			Test		Total
			1	2	
Question_6	A	Count	6	11	17
		% within Test	2.3%	4.2%	3.2%
	B	Count	24	23	47
		% within Test	9.1%	8.8%	9.0%
	C	Count	223	220	443
		% within Test	84.8%	84.0%	84.4%
	D	Count	9	8	17
		% within Test	3.4%	3.1%	3.2%
	E	Count	1	0	1
		% within Test	.4%	.0%	.2%
Total	Count		263	262	525
	% within Test		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

7. As you collect sources for your project it is critical to:

- a. Evaluate each source for accuracy and currency
- b. Print the full-text of the source
- c. Record all bibliographic information for your Works Cited list
- d. Answers a. and b.
- e. Answers a. and c.

Question_7 * Test Crosstabulation

			Test		Total
			1	2	
Question_7	A	Count	7	4	11
		% within Test	2.7%	1.5%	2.1%
	C	Count	0	4	4

	% within Test	.0%	1.5%	.8%
D	Count	10	9	19
	% within Test	3.8%	3.4%	3.6%
E	Count	246	245	491
	% within Test	93.5%	93.5%	93.5%
Total	Count	263	262	525
	% within Test	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

18. You want to help your father understand a medical diagnosis. You need to find good information written for the non-expert. Look at the database descriptions in the box below and then select the best source to search for this information need.

NewsBank NewsFile

COVERAGE: A comprehensive, full-text news resource consisting of regional, national and international sources. Its regional articles offer a valuable benefit to researchers and students by providing coverage of current issues and events. Updated daily.

Health Reference Center - Academic

COVERAGE: Articles from a variety of consumer-oriented and professional health periodicals, plus excerpts from health-related reference books. Material includes a medical dictionary; medical directories and reference books; and pamphlets issued by leading health organizations. Updated weekly.

BioMedical Reference Collection: Basic

COVERAGE: Provides health professionals access to 100 full-text journals covering such disciplines as clinical medicine, nursing, dentistry, veterinary medicine, the health care system and the pre-clinical sciences. Updated weekly.

- a. NewsBank NewsFile
- b. Health Reference Center - Academic
- c. BioMedical Reference Collections: Basic
- d. Answers a., b., and c.

Question_18 * Test Crosstabulation

		Test		Total
		1	2	
Question_18	Count	1	0	1
	% within Test	.4%	.0%	.2%
A	Count	24	24	48
	% within Test	9.1%	9.2%	9.1%
B	Count	181	185	366

	% within Test	68.8%	70.6%	69.7%
C	Count	28	33	61
	% within Test	10.6%	12.6%	11.6%
D	Count	29	20	49
	% within Test	11.0%	7.6%	9.3%
Total	Count	263	262	525
	% within Test	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

19. You are writing a paper for a psychology class and your professor has told you to use the PsychINFO database to find appropriate scholarly sources. The search terms you are using are returning results that don't seem relevant for your topic. What should you do?

- Try the search in Google
- Email PsychInfo for assistance
- Ask a librarian for help
- Try another database

Question_19 * Test Crosstabulation

		Test		Total
		1	2	
Question_19	Count	1	0	1
	% within Test	.4%	.0%	.2%
A	Count	8	3	11
	% within Test	3.0%	1.1%	2.1%
B	Count	18	14	32
	% within Test	6.8%	5.3%	6.1%
C	Count	212	220	432
	% within Test	80.6%	84.0%	82.3%
D	Count	24	25	49
	% within Test	9.1%	9.5%	9.3%
Total	Count	263	262	525
	% within Test	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Numbers 23-26. below are four citations for types of information sources. Match the lettered items to each citation.

You may use a letter more than once.

- Book
- Chapter in a book

- c. Periodical article
- d. Article in an encyclopedia

23. ____ Hume, David. 1997. Justice and equality. In *Equality: selected readings*, eds. Louis P. Pojman and Robert Westmoreland, 55-80. New York: Oxford University Press.

Question_23 * Test Crosstabulation

			Test		Total
			1	2	
Question_23	A	Count	55	47	102
		% within Test	20.9%	17.9%	19.4%
	B	Count	108	120	228
		% within Test	41.1%	45.8%	43.4%
	C	Count	42	39	81
		% within Test	16.0%	14.9%	15.4%
	D	Count	58	56	114
		% within Test	22.1%	21.4%	21.7%
Total	Count	263	262	525	
	% within Test	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

24. ____ Engel, K. 2002. Post-Workout Refueling. *Muscle & Fitness* 10(2):32-40.

Question_24 * Test Crosstabulation

			Test		Total
			1	2	
Question_24	A	Count	20	11	31
		% within Test	7.6%	4.2%	5.9%
	B	Count	65	56	121
		% within Test	24.7%	21.4%	23.0%
	C	Count	151	157	308
		% within Test	57.4%	59.9%	58.7%
	D	Count	27	38	65
		% within Test	10.3%	14.5%	12.4%
Total	Count	263	262	525	
	% within Test	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

25. ____ Meeks, K. 2000. *Driving while black: Highways, shopping malls, taxicabs, sidewalks: How to fight back if you are a victim of racial profiling*. New York: Broadway.

Question_25 * Test Crosstabulation

		Test		Total
		1	2	
Question_25	Count	1	0	1
	% within Test	.4%	.0%	.2%
A	Count	156	165	321
	% within Test	59.3%	63.0%	61.1%
B	Count	21	22	43
	% within Test	8.0%	8.4%	8.2%
C	Count	75	58	133
	% within Test	28.5%	22.1%	25.3%
D	Count	10	16	26
	% within Test	3.8%	6.1%	5.0%
E	Count	0	1	1
	% within Test	.0%	.4%	.2%
Total	Count	263	262	525
	% within Test	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

26. ____ Smith, Andrew. 2005. Detained by the U.S. government. *Synthesis* 12(3):9-11.

Question_26 * Test Crosstabulation

		Test		Total
		1	2	
Question_26	Count	1	0	1
	% within Test	.4%	.0%	.2%
A	Count	24	35	59
	% within Test	9.1%	13.4%	11.2%
B	Count	68	75	143
	% within Test	25.9%	28.6%	27.2%

	C	Count	80	88	168
		% within Test	30.4%	33.6%	32.0%
	D	Count	89	64	153
		% within Test	33.8%	24.4%	29.1%
	E	Count	1	0	1
		% within Test	.4%	.0%	.2%
Total		Count	263	262	525
		% within Test	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Standard 3

“The information literate student evaluates information and its sources critically and incorporates selected information into his or her knowledge base and value system.”

Std. 3	Pre-test	Post-Test
Mean Score	3.9/5	4.1/5
Percent Correct	78.9%	82.1%

8. Paraphrasing is the process of:

- Summarizing the author’s ideas in your own words
- Selecting paragraphs to use in your paper
- Changing a phrase to mean something else
- None of the above

Question_8 * Test Crosstabulation

			Test		Total
			1	2	
Question_8	A	Count	250	255	505
		% within Test	95.1%	97.3%	96.2%
	B	Count	1	2	3
		% within Test	.4%	.8%	.6%
	C	Count	1	1	2
		% within Test	.4%	.4%	.4%
	D	Count	9	4	13
		% within Test	3.4%	1.5%	2.5%

	E	Count	2	0	2
		% within Test	.8%	.0%	.4%
Total		Count	263	262	525
		% within Test	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

9. You are writing a report on automobile safety and tires. You have found several sources. Which would be the most likely to contain the most balanced discussion of this topic?

- a. A blog from an automobile association website
- b. Survey from a tire manufacturer
- c. Article in a popular automobile magazine
- d. Article in a consumer rights journal

Question_9 * Test Crosstabulation

			Test		Total
			1	2	
Question_9	A	Count	6	2	8
		% within Test	2.3%	.8%	1.5%
	B	Count	56	37	93
		% within Test	21.3%	14.1%	17.7%
	C	Count	69	71	140
		% within Test	26.2%	27.1%	26.7%
	D	Count	132	152	284
		% within Test	50.2%	58.0%	54.1%
Total		Count	263	262	525
		% within Test	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

10. When evaluating sources of information, the date of the source:

- a. Is important depending on the topic
- b. Should never be more than ten years old
- c. Is only critical in medical research
- d. Usually not important if it is a reliable source

Question_10 * Test Crosstabulation

			Test		Total
			1	2	
Question_10	A	Count	211	207	418

	% within Test	80.2%	79.0%	79.6%
B	Count	42	42	84
	% within Test	16.0%	16.0%	16.0%
C	Count	4	5	9
	% within Test	1.5%	1.9%	1.7%
D	Count	6	8	14
	% within Test	2.3%	3.1%	2.7%
Total	Count	263	262	525
	% within Test	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

11. To determine if an author is qualified to write on a specific topic, which of the following would most likely provide trustworthy information about the author's qualifications:

- Wikipedia
- Biography database
- An official webpage on a university website where he or she is employed
- Answers a., b., and c.
- Answers b. and c.

Question_11 * Test Crosstabulation

			Test		Total
			1	2	
Question_11	A	Count	1	2	3
		% within Test	.4%	.8%	.6%
	B	Count	10	6	16
		% within Test	3.8%	2.3%	3.0%
	C	Count	11	16	27
		% within Test	4.2%	6.1%	5.1%
	D	Count	7	6	13
		% within Test	2.7%	2.3%	2.5%
	E	Count	234	232	466
		% within Test	89.0%	88.5%	88.8%
Total	Count	263	262	525	
	% within Test	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

12. Which of the following strategies would be useful for trying to confirm the accuracy of information on a Web page?

- a. Checking the Web page author’s qualifications
- b. Researching other sources for the same information
- c. Finding out which institution is hosting the Web page
- d. Answers a. and c.
- e. Answers a. and b. and c.

Question_12 * Test Crosstabulation

			Test		Total
			1	2	
Question_12	A	Count	4	2	6
		% within Test	1.5%	.8%	1.1%
	B	Count	18	5	23
		% within Test	6.8%	1.9%	4.4%
	C	Count	2	2	4
		% within Test	.8%	.8%	.8%
	D	Count	28	24	52
		% within Test	10.6%	9.2%	9.9%
	E	Count	211	229	440
		% within Test	80.2%	87.4%	83.8%
Total	Count		263	262	525
	% within Test		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Standard 5

“The information literate student understands many of the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information and accesses and uses information ethically and legally.”

Std. 5	Pre-test	Post-Test
Mean Score	3.8/6	4.0/6
Percent Correct	63.7%	66.0%

13. Copyright protection covers materials:

- a. Only as long as the author or creator is still alive.
- b. Only if an explicit copyright notice (©, or Copyright by ...) is displayed.
- c. That represent an original idea, in a fixed format (text, music, drawing, video, ...).

d. Only if they have been published.

Question_13 * Test Crosstabulation

			Test		Total
			1	2	
Question_13	A	Count	1	2	3
		% within Test	.4%	.8%	.6%
	B	Count	82	67	149
		% within Test	31.2%	25.6%	28.4%
	C	Count	150	158	308
		% within Test	57.0%	60.3%	58.7%
	D	Count	29	35	64
		% within Test	11.0%	13.4%	12.2%
	E	Count	1	0	1
		% within Test	.4%	.0%	.2%
Total	Count		263	262	525
	% within Test		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

14. You want to use some of the information found in a magazine article for your research paper. Which situation(s) require that you write a footnote citing the source of your information?

- a. When you copy a whole paragraph.
- b. When you paraphrase a main point in your own words.
- c. When you quote a sentence from the article.
- d. Answers a., b, and c
- e. Answers a. and c.

Question_14 * Test Crosstabulation

			Test		Total
			1	2	
Question_14	A	Count	14	19	33
		% within Test	5.3%	7.3%	6.3%
	B	Count	10	7	17
		% within Test	3.8%	2.7%	3.2%
	C	Count	9	8	17
		% within Test	3.4%	3.1%	3.2%

	D	Count	138	170	308
		% within Test	52.5%	64.9%	58.7%
	E	Count	92	58	150
		% within Test	35.0%	22.1%	28.6%
Total		Count	263	262	525
		% within Test	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

15. Which of the following are valid reasons to cite the sources you used for a research paper?

- Readers of your paper may want to find and read the sources you cite.
- U.S. Copyright law states that research papers must contain such a list.
- You could be accused of plagiarism if you don't cite your sources properly.
- Answers a., b., and c.
- Answers a. and c.

Question_15 * Test Crosstabulation

			Test		Total
			1	2	
Question_15	A	Count	1	0	1
		% within Test	.4%	.0%	.2%
	B	Count	2	2	4
		% within Test	.8%	.8%	.8%
	C	Count	5	10	15
		% within Test	1.9%	3.8%	2.9%
	D	Count	180	196	376
		% within Test	68.4%	74.8%	71.6%
	E	Count	75	54	129
		% within Test	28.5%	20.6%	24.6%
Total		Count	263	262	525
		% within Test	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

16. You want to create a personal webpage that contains a clip of one of your favorite songs. What is required of you, if anything, before posting this webpage?

- Notify the songwriter that you will use part of his/her song.
- Find out who owns the rights to the song and ask for permission to play part of the song.
- Nothing, you can use the song since you are only playing a small part of it.
- You can use the song since you purchased the CD.

Question_16 * Test Crosstabulation

		Test		Total
		1	2	
Question_16	Count	1	0	1
	% within Test	.4%	.0%	.2%
A	Count	2	5	7
	% within Test	.8%	1.9%	1.3%
B	Count	173	185	358
	% within Test	65.8%	70.6%	68.2%
C	Count	22	19	41
	% within Test	8.4%	7.3%	7.8%
D	Count	62	53	115
	% within Test	23.6%	20.2%	21.9%
E	Count	3	0	3
	% within Test	1.1%	.0%	.6%
Total	Count	263	262	525
	% within Test	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

17. Which of the following statements is true?

- a. When citing articles you retrieved from an online periodical database, you may need to include the name of the database.
- b. Different disciplines, such as psychology or biology, have developed specific citation styles.
- c. If you use a website as an information source for a paper you must cite it in the bibliography.
- d. Answers a. and b.
- e. Answers a., b. and c.

Question_17 * Test Crosstabulation

			Test		Total
			1	2	
Question_17	A	Count	6	6	12
		% within Test	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%
	B	Count	4	5	9
		% within Test	1.5%	1.9%	1.7%
	C	Count	25	14	39

	% within Test	9.5%	5.3%	7.4%
D	Count	7	6	13
	% within Test	2.7%	2.3%	2.5%
E	Count	221	231	452
	% within Test	84.0%	88.2%	86.1%
Total	Count	263	262	525
	% within Test	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

21. What disciplinary action might happen to a IWU student who violates university policies on plagiarism?

- Dismissal from the university
- A failing grade for the course
- A failing grade for the assignment
- B and C
- A, B and C

Question_21 * Test Crosstabulation

			Test		Total
			1	2	
Question_21	A	Count	4	5	9
		% within Test	1.5%	1.9%	1.7%
	B	Count	2	1	3
		% within Test	.8%	.4%	.6%
	C	Count	2	4	6
		% within Test	.8%	1.5%	1.1%
	D	Count	7	13	20
		% within Test	2.7%	5.0%	3.8%
	E	Count	248	239	487
		% within Test	94.3%	91.2%	92.8%
Total		Count	263	262	525
		% within Test	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%