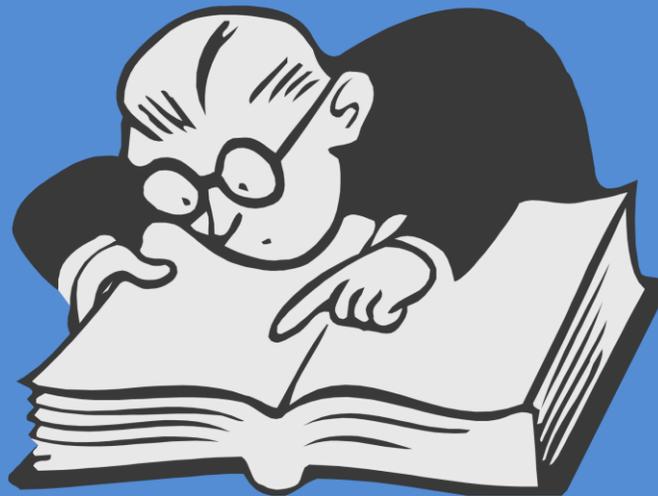


Research Practices Fall 2010

(GSTR 110 Students)



Administered online as part of the Higher Education Data
Sharing (HEDS) Consortium

Full Report:

<http://www.berea.edu/ira/files/2012/08/ResearchPracticesFall2010.pdf>

Response Rate: 214/467 or 46%

HEDS Research Practices Survey Instrument
(actual survey was administered online)

1. **How often in the past academic year did you use resources from a library (whether in person or on the Internet) for course assignments, research projects, or other academic purposes)?**
(Scale: Never, Once a week, Once or twice a month, A few times a year)
 - Community or public library
 - College or university library
 - High school library

2. **People use the library for many reasons. In the past academic year, which of the following was your MOST FREQUENT reason for using a library?**
 - Recreation or other non-academic purposes (leisure reading, checking out music or videos, checking e-mail, etc.)
 - Conducting research for course assignments or projects
 - Doing other academic work (studying, doing homework, doing a group project, etc.)
 - Other
 - I did not use a library in the past academic year

3. **In the past academic year, did an instructor or a librarian talk with one or more of your classes about how to use library resources, including Internet resources?**

4. **How many assignments, papers, or research projects have you completed in the past academic year that required you to include at least three sources in a Bibliography, References, or Works Cited list?**
(Scale: None, One or two, Three or four, Five or more)

5. **Which of the following print sources did you use in the past academic year for research?**
(Choose as many as apply.)
 - Library books
 - Encyclopedias, almanacs, dictionaries
 - Academic or research journals
 - Newspapers or magazines for the general public
 - Other
 - I did not use any print sources for research in the past academic year

6. **Which of the following online sources did you use in the past academic year for research?**
(Choose as many as apply.)
 - Google, Yahoo, or other search engine
 - Online journals, magazines, newspapers, or encyclopedias
 - Online library catalog
 - Online booksellers (such as Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com, etc.)
 - Online indexes or databases (such as EBSCO, JSTOR, Expanded Academic, ASAP, etc.)
 - Google Scholar
 - Other
 - I did not use any online sources for research in the past academic year

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7. Which of the following information management tools did you use in the past academic year for organizing and managing research information?

(Choose as many as apply.)

- Paper folders, files, or note cards
- Computer folders or files (My Documents, Microsoft Word files, etc.)
- Online tools (bookmarks, blogs, MySpace, etc.)
- E-mail
- Bibliographic management software (Endnote, Refworks, ProCite, etc.)
- Other
- I did not use any tools for organizing or managing research information

8. In the past academic year, when you were given research project assignments, how often were you required to use a specific format (such as APA, MLA, Chicago, or some other style) for the sources in your bibliography?

(Scale: Almost always, Often, Sometimes, Rarely, Never/not applicable)

9. How often have you sought research advice from each of the following?

(Scale: Almost always, Often, Sometimes, Rarely, Never/not applicable)

- Teachers or professors
- Librarians
- Parents (or other adult family members)
- Friends, classmates, or siblings
- Writing labs, writing centers, or help groups
- Help screens, online tutorials, or others

10. Over the course of the past academic year, how often did you talk with a librarian about a research project you were doing?

(Scale: Never, Once or twice, Three or four times, Five or more times)

11. Which of the following best describes the way you pace your work on a research assignment?

- I do most of the work soon after an assignment is given
- I divide the work pretty equally across the available time
- I do a little work soon after the assignment is given, but do most of it toward the end
- I do all the work just before or on the due date

12. How challenging are each of the following research components?

(Scale: Very easy, Somewhat easy, Somewhat difficult, Very difficult)

- Narrowing your topic
- Developing a list of sources to investigate
- Revising your search strategy as necessary
- Developing your main argument or thesis statement
- Organizing resources into logical unified structure
- Writing the paper
- Documenting your sources

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13. How challenging are each of the following in identifying/retrieving sources?

(Scale: Very easy, Somewhat easy, Somewhat difficult, Very difficult)

- Using a library catalog
- Using an electronic index (Academic Search Premier, ProQuest Research Library, etc.)
- Using a print index
- Using an Internet search engine
- Physically locating sources in a library
- Obtaining materials through inter-library loan

14. How challenging are each of the following in using sources?

(Scale: Very easy, Somewhat easy, Somewhat difficult, Very difficult)

- Determining whether a source is appropriate for an academic project
- Deciding what information from your sources to integrate into your project
- Knowing when to document a source
- Knowing how to document a source

15. How much do you enjoy research?

(Scale: Very much, Quite a bit, Some, Very little)

16. Rate your agreement with each of the following statements.

(Scale: Strongly agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly disagree)

- Skillful researchers know the best way to approach any research question
- A course in research skills would be useful
- When two researchers disagree, one of them must be wrong
- Successful researchers understand things quickly
- Careful researchers can ultimately get to the truth
- If a researcher cannot understand something within a short amount of time, she should keep on trying.
- Good research yields clear results; poor research yields ambiguous results
- When it comes to research, some people are just naturally better at it than others

17. Which of the following searches would retrieve the MOST results in an online search?

- Movies OR Films
- Movies AND Films
- Movies NOT Films
- Movies INSTEAD OF Films
- Don't know

18. Which of the following is the correct way to truncate a search word?

- Typing in only the first syllable of the word as a keyword
- Combining search words with "and," "or," or "not"
- Using the * or ! Symbol in place of the last few letters of the word
- None of the above
- Don't know

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19. Which of the following would be the most efficient way to find a comprehensive listing of other books in the catalog on this topic?

- Identifying other books written by the same authors
- Examining the bibliography in the book
- Scanning the shelves where the book is located to see what books are nearby
- Searching again using the subject headings that most closely match your research topic
- Don't know

20. Researchers must distinguish between academic journals and popular magazines. Which of the following statements is LEAST ACCURATE?

- Academic journal articles provide objective facts; popular magazine articles do not
- Academic journals usually include a list of references to other scholarly works; articles in popular magazines usually do not
- The intended audience for academic journals is mainly other scholars, for magazines is the general public
- Authors and editors for academic journals are usually employed in higher education, for magazines (non-profit media)
- Don't know

21. You find the following entry in the Reference section of a recent article: Erisman, H.M. (2002). The Cuban Revolution's evolving identity. *Latin American Politics and Society* 44 (1), 145-153. In what issue of *Latin American Politics and Society* will you find this article?

- Volume 2002, Number 44
- Volume 44, Number 1
- Volume 1, Number 145-1553
- The issue cannot be determined

22. For each of the following, please identify the actual source

(Scale: Entire book, Journal article, Portion of a book, Don't know)

- Jorgensen, Lara W. "Reinterpreting Navajo Rites." *Navajo Culture* 6 (1946): 469-78.
- Allen, Glover Morrill. *Bats*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. 1939.
- Tanaka, Kazuko. "The New Feminist Movement in Japan, 1970-1990." In *Japanese Women*, edited by Kumiko Fujimura-Fanselow, New York Feminist Press. 1995.

23. Researchers must distinguish between primary and secondary sources. Which of the following statements is MOST ACCURATE?

- Primary sources are more scholarly than secondary sources
- Primary sources are old; secondary sources are new
- Primary sources examine subjects first-hand; secondary sources examine the findings of the other scholars
- Primary sources are more appropriate for academic projects than are secondary sources
- All of the above are equally accurate
- Don't know

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24. Which of the following is likely to yield the most comprehensive list of relevant scholarly articles for a research project?

- Searching an electronic index or database in a specific academic field (History, Biology, Music, etc.)
- Using a general Internet search like Google or Yahoo
- Paging through print volumes of an academic journal in a specific academic field
- Searching the library catalog
- All of the above are equally effective
- Don't know

25. A peer-reviewed or refereed journal is BEST described as:

- A journal that publishes reviews of other articles
- A journal that publishes articles that have been approved by other scholars
- A journal that includes only articles written collaboratively by peers
- A journal that includes references for each article it publishes
- Don't know

26. In a scholarly article of a research paper, a citation is:

- A direct quotation from someone else's written work
- Source information for any ideas or text from someone else's written work
- The physical location of a source (book, journal, etc.)
- All of the above
- Don't know

27. A citation is NOT required when:

- You are paraphrasing, rather than quoting a source
- More than one source says the same thing
- You are describing your own feelings or analyses
- All of the above
- Don't know

28. Please choose the most accurate option for each of the following:
(Scale: *Scholarly, Non-Scholarly, Cannot be determined, Don't know*)

- Available online
- Translated from another language
- Published in a peer-reviewed journal
- Posted on a political blog
- Recently published
- Has a lengthy list of references
- Published by a university press
- Published in Time, Newsweek, USNews

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29. You are required to write a research paper for your American History class examining the roles of women in Civil War. An initial search turns up the following sources. Which one is LEAST likely to be appropriate for your paper?

- Edwards, L.F. (1980). *Scarlett doesn't live here anymore: Southern women in the Civil War era*. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press.
- Heidler, D.S., & Heidler, J.T. (Eds.). (2000). *Encyclopedia of the American Civil War: A political, social, and military History*.
- *Hearts at Home: Southern Women in the Civil War*. (1997). Diaries, letters, photographs, and papers in the Special Collections of the University of Virginia Library
- Schultz, J. E. (2002). *Seldom thanked, never praised, and scarcely recognized: Gender and racism in Civil War Hospitals*. *Civil War History*.
- Wilson, B.A. (2006). *Women in the Civil War*. Retrieved July 1, 2006, from <http://userpages.aug.com/captbarb/femvets2.html>

30. What was your basis for the source selection to the previous question (#29)?

- Whether the source is likely to be scholarly
- How recently the source was published
- Whether the source was a print or Internet source
- The number of pages with information about this topic
- All of the above equally influenced my response to the preceding question.

31. Suppose you have more relevant sources than you can use in a short research assignment. Which of the following is the best way to determine whether to use a particular source?

- Whether the source is a print or Internet source
- How recently the source was published
- How easily you can get the source
- Whether the source is scholarly
- Whether the author is highly respected
- All of the above are equally valid criteria for choosing among sources

Demographics

32. What is your college classification for the 2010-201 Academic Year?

- Freshmen/First-Year
- Sophomore
- Junior
- Senior
- Unclassified

33. Gender

34. Ethnicity