Standardized Information Literacy Assessment: SAILS and Beyond

Standards & Skill Sets Assessed by SAILS

Standard I: The information literate student determines the nature and extent of the information needed.

Standard II: The information literate student accesses needed information effectively and efficiently.

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

Standard V: 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.

Skill Set 1: Developing a Research Strategy

Skill Set 2: Scholarly Communication/   Structure of Disciplines

Skill Set 3: Identifying and Distinguishing Among Types of Sources

Skill Set 4: Selecting Finding Tools

Skill Set 5: Selecting Search Terms

Skill Set 6: Constructing the Search

Skill Set 7: Understanding Information Retrieval Systems

Skill Set 8: Evaluating and Revising Search Results

Skill Set 9: Retrieving Sources

Skill Set 10: Evaluating and Selecting Sources

Skill Set 11: Documenting Sources

Skill Set 12: Economic, Legal and Social Issues

Difficult and Easy Questions from the SAILS Assessment

Difficult

If you have a research paper due, and the course instructor has not advised you to use a particular citation style, which of the following is the best thing to do? Choose only one answer
   a. Select a citation style and use it consistently
   b. Use various citation styles based on the type of resource
   c. Use your own citation style and use it consistently
   d. You should always use APA if no other style is requested
   e. You should always use MLA if no other style is requested

Your art history professor wants you to write a paper on the use of color in the famous painting, "The Madonna." Which search strategy would be the most effective for finding relevant information? Choose only one answer
   a. Art
   b. Color and Madonna not music
   c. Color or meaning in art
   d. Famous paintings
   e. Use of color in the Madonna

Easy

When recording bibliographic information for a <u>book</u> you are using in your research, which of the following elements are necessary to cite it correctly? Choose all that apply.
   a. Author
   b. City where the publisher is located
   c. ISBN
   d. Number of pages in the book
   e. Title

If you want to find books that Charlotte Bronte wrote, which search would you do? Choose only one answer
   a.   Author: Bronte
   b.   Subject: Bronte
   c.   Title: Bronte