Using the RRSA to Assess Information Literacy

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Why Milligan was looking for an IL assessment

- Determine the skill levels and design appropriate instruction for different skills levels.

- Creating a good assessment is hard work

- Do we need to reinvent the wheel?

- Corollary: Can our experience contribute to a larger body of research?

Development of the RRSA

- Central Michigan University librarians perceive IL skills of students as **WEAK**

- Students self-assess skills as **STRONG**

- Librarians schedule IL sessions to improve skills

- Students don't pay attention and continue to use poor IL skills

Relevant Literature

- Gross, Melissa, and Don Latham. "Attaining information literacy: An investigation of the relationship between skill level, self-estimates of skill, and library anxiety." <u>Library & Information Science Research</u> 19 (2007): 332-353.

- Ivanitskaya, Lana, R. Laus, and Anne Marie Casey. "Research Readiness Self-Assessment: Assessing Students' Research Skills and Attitudes." <u>Journal of Library Administration</u> 41(2004): 167-183.

Purpose of the
Ready Reference Self-Assessment

- Assess student performance in the knowledge and skill areas of the ACRL Informational Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education

- Survey student beliefs and behaviors pertaining to information seeking activities

Knowledge and Skills Assessment

- Obtaining information

- Evaluating information

- Understanding of plagiarism

Part 1: Obtaining Information

- Boolean operators

- Searching the catalog

- Selection of resource type based on information need

- Identifying parts of a citation

Research Readiness Self-Assessment/3.1
Managed Institution Control Panel   **Exit Control Panel**

| Option #5 : | services provided by a very experienced lawyer | 0 | 0 |

You are interested in gathering information about work stress, but are *not* interested in its medical side effects. Set up a document search in a separate window using the following keywords: stress medical
Click here to begin your search
Report the number of documents you found:

22)

Options		if_checked	if_not_checked
Option #1 :	255	0	0
Option #2 :	555	1	0
Option #3 :	700	0	0
Option #4 :	11164	0	0
Option #5 :	55164	0	0

Which of the following materials are *primary* and not secondary sources of information? Check all that apply:

23)

Options	if_checked	if_not_checked
Option #1 : An accounting textbook	0	1
Option #2 : General Motors' annual report	1	0
Option #3 : My medical record	1	0
Option #4 : A newspaper review of the profit margins of 100 large corporations	0	1
Option #5 : A magazine article summarizing findings of studies that had the greatest impact on health	0	1

You have found a good reference for your research paper. It is a book authored by Williams. The book title is Mere Humanity. Find it by searching the Milligan College Library's Online Catalog: http://library.acaweb.org/search~S27 What is the CALL NUMBER of this book?

25)

Options	if_checked	if_not_checked
Option #1 :	BT401.3 .W54 2006	0	0
Option #2 :	BT501.3 .W54 2006	0	0
Option #3 :	BT601.3 .W54 2006	0	0
Option #4 :	BT701.3 .W54 2006	1	0
Option #5 :	BT801.3 .W54 2006	0	0

Your paper topic is "the afterlife." You have misplaced the book you quoted in your paper: Johnson who had views about death and the afterlife from different religious perspectives. Find it by searching the Milligan College Library's Online Catalog: http://library.acaweb.org /search~S27 What is the CALL NUMBER of this book?

24)

Options	if_checked	if_not_checked
Option #1 :	BL404 .E53 1991	0	0
Option #2 :	BL504 .E53 1991	1	0
Option #3 :	BL604 .E53 1991	0	0
Option #4 :	BL704 .E53 1991	0	0
Option #5 :	BL804 .E53 1991	0	0

A complete citation is needed to obtain an article or a book. Which of the following citations *lack important information*? Check all that apply:

27)

Options	if_checked	if_not_checked
Option #1 : Syer, Cassidy A., and Bruce M. Shore. "Science Fairs: What Are the Sources of Help for Students and How Prevalent is Cheating?" School Science and Mathematics 101.4 (2001): 206-220.	0	1
Option #2 : "Improving Public Health Through Policy Advocacy." Community-Based Public Health Policy & Practice. 8.2:1-8.	1	0
Option #3 : Wheeler, Lani. "Asthma Management in Schools." FDA Consumer 37.2 (2003).	1	0
Option #4 : McNulty, Terry, and Ewan Ferlie. Reengineering Health Care: The Complexities of	1	0

Done

Part 2: Evaluating Information

- Students read 3 sample articles and 3 sample web pages

- Students answer questions about the authors, authority, currency and purpose of the articles and web pages

Research Readiness Self-Assessment/3.1
Managed Institution Control Panel

Which article includes a _thorough_ review of existing research on learning disabilities?

29)

Options	if_checked	if_not_checked
Option #1 : On the Lookout for Learning Disabilities	0	0
Option #2 : Overcoming Learning Disorders	0	0
Option #3 : Teaching Students with Learning Disabilities	1	0

Which article was most likely written before the other articles were?

58)

Options	if_checked	if_not_checked
Option #1 : On the Lookout for Learning Disabilities	1	0
Option #2 : Overcoming Learning Disorders	0	0
Option #3 : Teaching Students with Learning Disabilities	0	0

Which article was written by an author whose affiliation is unknown?

30)

Options	if_checked	if_not_checked
Option #1 : On the Lookout for Learning Disabilities	0	0
Option #2 : Overcoming Learning Disorders	1	0
Option #3 : Teaching Students with Learning Disabilities	0	0

Prior to its publication, which article was most likely to pass through a rigorous review by experts?

31)

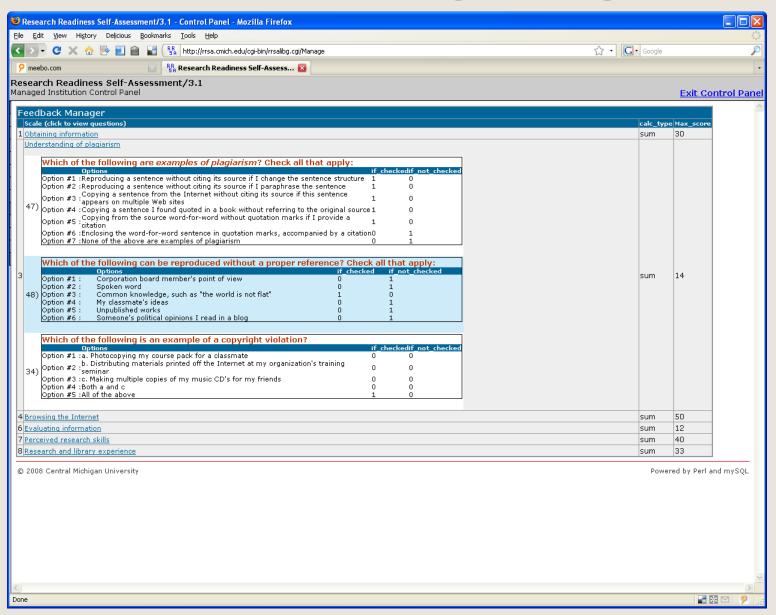| Options	if_checked	if_not_checked
Option #1 : On the Lookout for Learning Disabilities	0	0
Option #2 : Overcoming Learning Disorders	0	0
Option #3 : Teaching Students with Learning Disabilities	1	0

6   sum   12

You are looking for information on various nutritional supplements. You found three web sites. Click on the links below to examine each site and evaluate its content. Which of these web sites is the most trustworthy?

51)

Options	if_checked	if_not_checked
Option #1 : Cognitogenic aids	1	0
Option #2 : Dormitogenic aids	0	0
Option #3 : Vescorogenic (gustatogenic) aids	0	0

What is _the most likely_ purpose of the vescorogenic (gustatogenic) aids web site?

18)

Options	if_checked	if_not_checked
Option #1 : To assist a large number of people in achieving their nutrition and wellness goals	0	0
Option #2 : To educate people that the FDA did not evaluate the effectiveness of vescorogenic (gustatogenic) aids	0	0
Option #3 : To promote research on how vescorogenic (gustatogenic) aids inhibit body fat biosynthesis	0	0
Option #4 : To sell John Goode's services and vescorogenic (gustatogenic) aids	1	0
Option #5 : To explain that not all "diet drugs" are vescorogenic (gustatogenic) aids	0	0
Option #6 : To provide rich, evidence-based information on how vescorogenic (gustatogenic) aids helped specific people get healthy	0	0

Check statements that are true about the three web sites you evaluated. Check all that apply:

52)

Options	if_checked	if_not_checked
Option #1 : I may recommend that people suffering from **learning disabilities** take supplements described in cognitogenic aids	0	1
Option #2 : I may recommend that people suffering from **sleeping disorders** take supplements described in dormitogenic aids	0	1
Option #3 : I may recommend that people suffering from **obesity** take supplements described in vescorogenic (gustatogenic) aids	0	1
Option #4 : All three web sites make a good case for taking nutritional supplements	0	1

Done

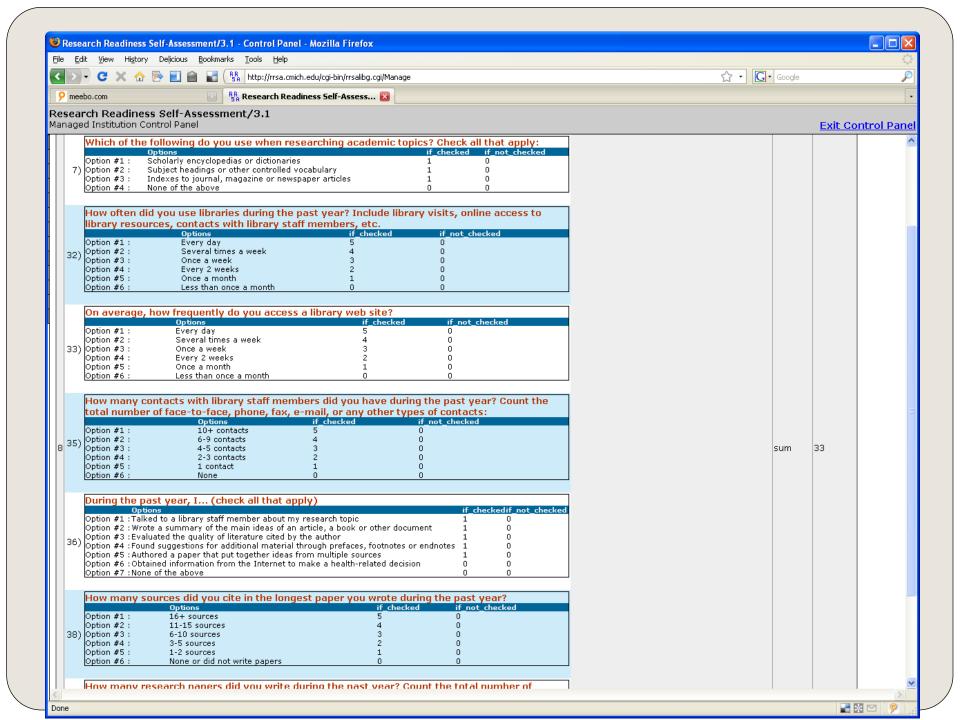# Part 3: Understanding of plagiarism

Student Beliefs and Behaviors

- Research and Library Experience

- Browsing the Internet

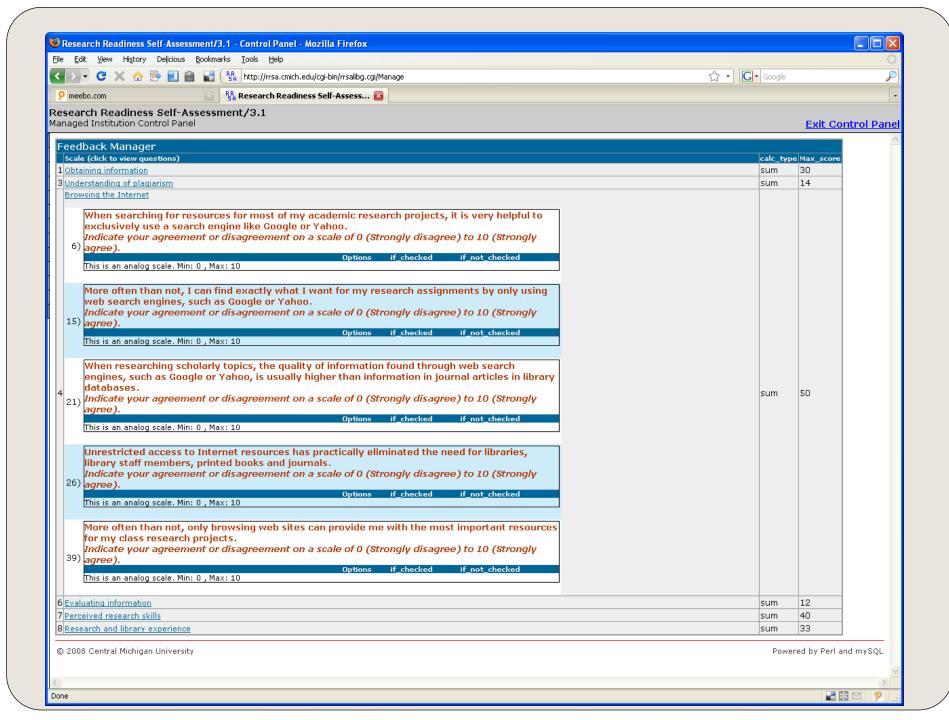- Perceived Research Skills

Part 4: Research and Library Experience

- Library usage both in person and online

- Contact with librarians

- Research papers-how long? How many sources?

Research Readiness Self-Assessment/3.1
Managed Institution Control Panel   **Exit Control Panel**

Which of the following do you use when researching academic topics? Check all that apply:

	Options	if_checked	if_not_checked
Option #1 :	Scholarly encyclopedias or dictionaries	1	0
Option #2 :	Subject headings or other controlled vocabulary	1	0
Option #3 :	Indexes to journal, magazine or newspaper articles	1	0
Option #4 :	None of the above	0	0

7)

How often did you use libraries during the past year? Include library visits, online access to library resources, contacts with library staff members, etc.

	Options	if_checked	if_not_checked
Option #1 :	Every day	5	0
Option #2 :	Several times a week	4	0
Option #3 :	Once a week	3	0
Option #4 :	Every 2 weeks	2	0
Option #5 :	Once a month	1	0
Option #6 :	Less than once a month	0	0

32)

On average, how frequently do you access a library web site?

	Options	if_checked	if_not_checked
Option #1 :	Every day	5	0
Option #2 :	Several times a week	4	0
Option #3 :	Once a week	3	0
Option #4 :	Every 2 weeks	2	0
Option #5 :	Once a month	1	0
Option #6 :	Less than once a month	0	0

33)

How many contacts with library staff members did you have during the past year? Count the total number of face-to-face, phone, fax, e-mail, or any other types of contacts:

	Options	if_checked	if_not_checked
Option #1 :	10+ contacts	5	0
Option #2 :	6-9 contacts	4	0
Option #3 :	4-5 contacts	3	0
Option #4 :	2-3 contacts	2	0
Option #5 :	1 contact	1	0
Option #6 :	None	0	0

8 35)   sum   33

During the past year, I... (check all that apply)

	Options	if_checked	if_not_checked
Option #1 :	Talked to a library staff member about my research topic	1	0
Option #2 :	Wrote a summary of the main ideas of an article, a book or other document	1	0
Option #3 :	Evaluated the quality of literature cited by the author	1	0
Option #4 :	Found suggestions for additional material through prefaces, footnotes or endnotes	1	0
Option #5 :	Authored a paper that put together ideas from multiple sources	1	0
Option #6 :	Obtained information from the Internet to make a health-related decision	0	0
Option #7 :	None of the above	0	0

36)

How many sources did you cite in the longest paper you wrote during the past year?

	Options	if_checked	if_not_checked
Option #1 :	16+ sources	5	0
Option #2 :	11-15 sources	4	0
Option #3 :	6-10 sources	3	0
Option #4 :	3-5 sources	2	0
Option #5 :	1-2 sources	1	0
Option #6 :	None or did not write papers	0	0

38)

How many research papers did you write during the past year? Count the total number of
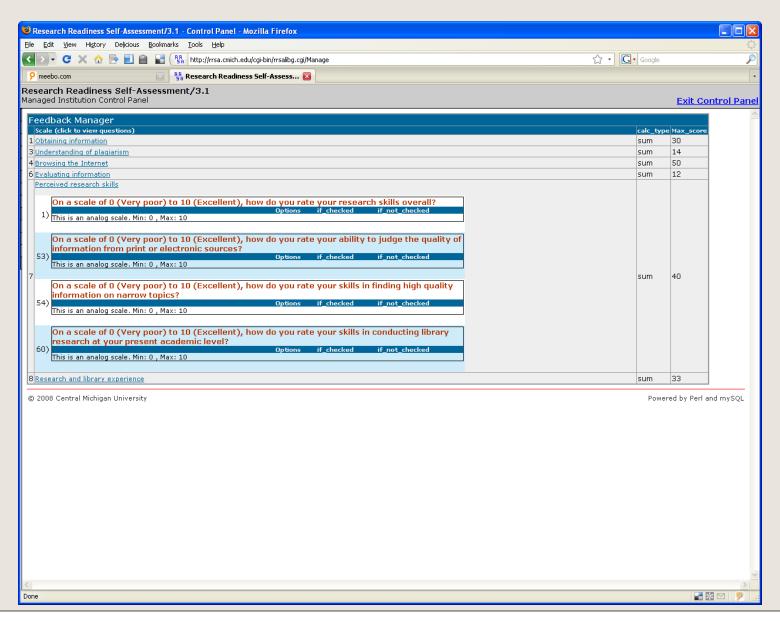
Done

Part 5: Browsing the Internet

- Student perception of the value of search engines for locating research resources

- Student perception of the value of library resources for locating research resources

File   Edit   View   History   Delicious   Bookmarks   Tools   Help

http://rrsa.cmich.edu/cgi-bin/rrsalibg.cgi/Manage | Google

meebo.com | Research Readiness Self-Assess...

Research Readiness Self-Assessment/3.1
Managed Institution Control Panel

Feedback Manager

	Scale (click to view questions)	calc_type	Max_score
1	Obtaining information	sum	30
3	Understanding of plagiarism	sum	14
	Browsing the Internet		

6) When searching for resources for most of my academic research projects, it is very helpful to exclusively use a search engine like Google or Yahoo.
Indicate your agreement or disagreement on a scale of 0 (Strongly disagree) to 10 (Strongly agree).

Options	if_checked	if_not_checked

This is an analog scale. Min: 0 , Max: 10

15) More often than not, I can find exactly what I want for my research assignments by only using web search engines, such as Google or Yahoo.
Indicate your agreement or disagreement on a scale of 0 (Strongly disagree) to 10 (Strongly agree).

Options	if_checked	if_not_checked

This is an analog scale. Min: 0 , Max: 10

4

21) When researching scholarly topics, the quality of information found through web search engines, such as Google or Yahoo, is usually higher than information in journal articles in library databases.
Indicate your agreement or disagreement on a scale of 0 (Strongly disagree) to 10 (Strongly agree).

Options	if_checked	if_not_checked

This is an analog scale. Min: 0 , Max: 10

sum   50

26) Unrestricted access to Internet resources has practically eliminated the need for libraries, library staff members, printed books and journals.
Indicate your agreement or disagreement on a scale of 0 (Strongly disagree) to 10 (Strongly agree).

Options	if_checked	if_not_checked

This is an analog scale. Min: 0 , Max: 10

39) More often than not, only browsing web sites can provide me with the most important resources for my class research projects.
Indicate your agreement or disagreement on a scale of 0 (Strongly disagree) to 10 (Strongly agree).

Options	if_checked	if_not_checked

This is an analog scale. Min: 0 , Max: 10

6	Evaluating information	sum	12
7	Perceived research skills	sum	40
8	Research and library experience	sum	33

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Powered by Perl and mySQL

Done

Part 6: Perceived Research Skills

RRSA Specifics

- Test Time: Averages 34 minutes

- Students can save and come back

- Students receive immediate feedback on the 6 categories and their overall score.

- Currently three versions available:
  - Multidisciplinary
  - Health
  - Communication Disorders

Costs

- ## Administering Generic RRSA
  - 24 cents per assessment (48 cents per student if doing pre- and post-assessment)
  - Bulk pricing also available
  - Initial set up costs minimal
  - Customizable to your catalog, citation style, "Additional Resources"

- ## Administering Institution-Specific RRSA
  - $560 one time set up fee
  - 48 cents per assessment

Final Things

- Actively seeking more collaborative partners

- For more information on RRSA:
http://rrsa.cmich.edu/twiki/bin/view.cgi/RRSA

- For a copy of this PowerPoint presentation:
http://www.milligan.edu/library/summit08.htm