

Chris Krause  
Exercise 2

1.

Answer: Der Erlkönig from the ballad opera *Die Fischerin*.

Source: Yahoo query “Goethe horse fog poem” to Wikipedia

Strategy: Keyword/heuristic search

2.

Answer: “Before I can help you I need to know what it is about Jay Leno that you are looking for. Is it perhaps information about his life, or current events?”

“I have to write a report on his life I think, maybe I can show you the assignment instructions”

“Ok very good, may I refer you to *Leading with My Chin*, his official biography. The book contains information on his early life, career and professional work.”

Source: Google “jay leno” to Wikipedia

Strategy: Pretty simple, my intent was to locate his official biography and I did. A number of joke books and other recreational nonsense came up, I cut through that to find some good personal information about him and presented it to the patron.

Remarks: I couldn't imagine what sort of articles would be appropriate for school in regard to Jay Leno (what sort of articles would exist for him other than gossip and celebrity nonsense?) – so I assumed the kid just misunderstood the assignment and actually wanted biographical information.

3.

Answer:

Cortical connections of the middle temporal visual area (MT) and the superior temporal cortex in owl monkeys

RE Weller, JT Wall... - The Journal of comparative ..., 1984 - Wiley Online Library

Cortical projections of the dorsolateral visual area in owl monkeys: the prestriate relay to inferior temporal cortex

RE Weller... - The Journal of comparative neurology, 1985 - Wiley Online Library

Subdivisions and connections of inferior temporal cortex in owl monkeys

RE Weller... - The Journal of Comparative Neurology, 1987 - Wiley Online Library

Source: Google Scholar advanced search “owl monkeys”, restricted to author Weller

Strategy: I know Google's superior search logics would know exactly what Weller I was looking for so I was confident in simply searching for the fairly common author name “Weller.” As is usual, Google Scholar returned a long list of peer-reviewed journal articles.

4.

Answer:

Nutrition and diabetes: pathophysiology and management by Emmanuel C. Opara  
For a technical/academic treatment of the topic

Diabetes For Dummies By Alan L. Rubin  
For a general treatment of the topic

Source: Google Book keyword search “diabetic nutrition” and “diabetic diet”

Strategy: Keyword search

Remarks: I found that a number of the returns were “fad” or otherwise ornamental cookbooks, not medical guides on what a diabetic should eat. Had to dig around and check out the records before “OKing” them for the patron.

5.

Much quicker, responsive and natural. The horrible design of academic database software often encumbers searches and makes them take much longer than they should. While #1 and #2 are perhaps ideal for searches of this nature, #3 and #4 are better served by academic databases because they require a specifically peer-reviewed treatment of the subject. This is not to say that similar resources cannot be found on Google, but it’s actually easier to use an academic cross-reference to find the appropriate records. Catalogs and indexes typically lack the sort of robust and powerful heuristic logics that power Google, but they are task-oriented to find specific academic references. In this regard they are better suited. Catalogs and indexes are also a more safe resource for a patron to use because they only require a technical rather than philosophical training in use.

6.

Answer: “A great deal took place in 1960, that’s for sure! Luckily I don’t need to ask you narrow down what you’re looking for because Wikipedia very neatly and concisely summarizes all the major events of the year.

Some major events which happened near and around March 23, 1960:

March 22 – Arthur Leonard Schawlow & Charles Hard Townes receive the first patent for a laser.

March 23 – Nikita Khrushchev meets Charles De Gaulle in Paris.

March 29 – Tom Pillibi by Jacqueline Boyer (music by André Popp, text by Pierre Cour) wins the Eurovision Song Contest 1960 for France.

Nicol Stephen, Scottish politician, was also born on that day.

For more reference this link:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1960>

Source: Keyword search “1960” at Wikipedia.

Strategy: I knew that Wikipedia had the best timelines of any resource I know of, and the timeline is also interactive, allowing the patron to delve into events to the day in 1960 with incredible depth.

Remarks: In defense of using Wikipedia: I noticed that several web resources for timelines are “allowed” in the bibliography, most of which are not peer-reviewed in any fashion. For instance, why is the following website allowed, while “general web searches” (implying Wikipedia) are not: [http://www.hyperhistory.com/online\\_n2/History\\_n2/a.html](http://www.hyperhistory.com/online_n2/History_n2/a.html)

The aforementioned website is not only an inferior source of information which compared to the “1960” article on Wikipedia, but it also derives from a private, monied, corporate source attempting to sell the Encyclopedia Britannica upon any link clicked. The same applies to the History Channel’s website, also allowed in the bibliography.

Furthermore, I could perhaps find the same information on Wikipedia in one of the books listed, but I would have to compile the information myself into a list to give the patron, and the list would not be as exhaustive as the one already in existence on Wikipedia. Accordingly I can think of no rational reason to not give the answer above.

7.

Answer:

Reference (R): Did you mean Abidjan, the former capitol of Côte d'Ivoire?

Patron (P): Yes.

R: And could you tell me more about the sort of report you have to do?

P: I don’t know – it’s just a report. We have to talk about the country’s politics and economy.

R: No problem, so to confirm: this book report is more about Côte d'Ivoire and not Abidjan? You have to make a report describing the government and economy of the country?

P: Yeah, I need to make a short report introducing the country to the class.

R: For some general information I would recommend you to the CIA World Factbook, it has a variety on information on the economy, leaders and politics. The easiest way to use it is to search for “CIA world factbook” in Google, it’ll come up #1, click on it, then select the country from the drop down box where it says “select a country or location.”

P: ok, that’s easy!

R: Yep, and I also found a cool article explaining the mineral industry in the country, which was very important for their economy, you might want to bring that up in class:

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF CÔTE D’IVOIRE by Philip M. Mobbs, 2001

<http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/country/1996/9208096.pdf>

Source: CIA World Fact Book, Ebscohost for “CÔTE D’IVOIRE”

Strategy: I knew that the CIA World Fact Book would be an appropriate level of comprehension for this patron and didn’t want to go too deeply into an academic source. I also knew the CIA World Fact Book has complete, although elementary, coverage of the topic and would be ideal for a sort of class report the patron was looking for. The 2<sup>nd</sup> reference source is sort of for “bonus points” – it’s a more close examination of the economy and also involves Abidjan specifically.

8.

Answer:

“This is a very complex question which I cannot answer it for you succinctly; you will have to do some research on your own. Luckily there is a research tool you can use, it compares various green cars, and includes fields for fuel type, annual fuel price, fuel economy, unit price and virtually every other characteristic. It is offered by HybridCars.com and I think will be very helpful for you.”

Source: <http://www.hybridcars.com/decision-process/hybridcarscom-launches-green-car-comparison-tool-25841.html>

Strategy: Did some academic cross-reference searches, didn't find anything that would address the scope of the patron's question. I also searched on worldcat, LOC and google scholar for monographs that would cover the topic. Finally through some searching I located HybridCars.com which is an ideal tool for the patron to consider on her quest to find a good hybrid car considering the immensity of the query.

Remarks: I feel like as a librarian I shouldn't be telling a patron how to shop, or what to buy. I'd rather give them the resources so they can make that decision on their own.

9.

Answer:

"Let me refer you to Stem Cell List, an independent research website which has a frequently updated and edited list of stem cell related organizations. The list also has links to organization websites, as well as little reviews detailing them."

Source: <http://stemcelllist.com/home/associations-and-organizations.html>

Also

[http://www.stemcellresources.org/who\\_orgs.html](http://www.stemcellresources.org/who_orgs.html)

Strategy: Fairly straight forward, the patron doesn't know how to use a search engine properly. I think if this was "real life" I'd probably explain how to find the links I did properly and to discern what can be trusted.

10.

Answer:

"Most archaeologists make between \$36,717 - \$54,045 a year, not counting benefits. The Society for California Archaeology offers a list of schools furnishing an archaeology/anthropology degree. The most inexpensive of which would be member to the state school system, the costs of which are explained on the California Colleges website. You do not "need" a Master's degree for all archaeology jobs, although a significant number require one."

Source: <http://www.payscale.com/research/US/Job=Archaeologist/Salary>  
<http://www.californiacolleges.edu/finance/how-much-does-college-cost.asp>  
[http://www.scahome.org/student\\_lounge/schools.html](http://www.scahome.org/student_lounge/schools.html)

Strategy: I broke down each query into an individual search. I have seen industry-standard websites before that compile salary data (probably from the census) and create snapshots of salary conditions. This is how I located [payscale.com](http://www.payscale.com) – the 2<sup>nd</sup> source was found by an awareness that public schools would be the only option for an impoverished patron, and the third was trickier. It took about twenty

minutes to find the right search terms. “California archaeology” brought me to the SCA – which very nicely provided a list of archaeology programs in their state.

11.

Answer:

“What you are looking for is Really Simple Syndication, which is where the RSS comes from. RSS is a family of web feed formats used to publish frequently updated works—such as blog entries, news headlines, audio, and video—in a standardized format. You will need an RSS reader to access such feeds, and links to RSS feeds in order to configure them in your reader. Most modern email programs also can be used to subscribe to RSS feeds, but if yours doesn’t, or if you want to use an independent program I would recommend Google Reader, which requires no expertise to setup and is as easy as using Gmail. If that does not fancy you, there is a large comparison chart on Wikipedia which details the various RSS readers, the vast majority of which are free.”

Source: Personal knowledge, also

<http://www.google.com/reader/view/#welcome-page>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison\\_of\\_feed\\_aggregators](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_feed_aggregators)

Strategy: I “cheated” on this one because I know a great deal about RSS technology personally, being a computer nerd my entire life. I hope this is OK.