



**Research Practices Survey
First-Year Student Summary Report
Fall 2008 RPS Item Results**

The Research Practices Survey was administered on-line to the Class of 2012 in the Fall 2008 (before the first semester had begun or before any library instruction had been administered).

The overall sample consists of 6,273 first-year students at 39 institutions shown below.

For the knowledge items (#17 - 31) the most accurate response item is listed below each table.

Institution	First-Year Count	First-Year Response Rate
Agnes Scott College	59	33%
Albion College	164	31%
Austin College	121	84%
Beloit College	53	16%
Bennington College	69	35%
Bryant University	63	7%
Bucknell University	281	29%
Centre College	197	59%
College of Wooster	30	Not reported
Earlham College	106	33%
Fairfield University	86	9%
Franklin and Marshall College	82	14%
Furman University	390	49%
Grinnell College	81	19%
Gustavus Adolphus College	178	25%
Hampshire College	73	18%
Illinois College	75	Not reported
Juniata College	136	Not reported
Kenyon College	89	19%
Lafayette College	430	72%
Lake Forest College	63	14%
Luther College	373	59%
Macalester College	157	93%
Mills College	82	Not reported
Oglethorpe University	44	Not reported
Oxford College of Emory	126	31%
Sarah Lawrence College	62	17%
St. John Fisher College	190	33%
St. Lawrence University	255	41%
St. Olaf College	520	64%
Trinity University	159	24%
Union College	203	35%
University of Notre Dame	205	28%
University of Puget Sound	98	19%
Vassar College	352	55%
Whittier College	88	21%
Widener University	140	38%
Willamette University	250	51%
Wittenberg University	143	26%
VALID N	6,273	

Fall 2008 Research Practices, First-Year Summary

	Earlham College	All Other Participants
	Count	Count
Mills College		82
Whittier College		88
Fairfield University		86
Trinity University		159
Agnes Scott College		59
Oxford College of Emory University		126
Oglethorpe University		44
Illinois College		75
Lake Forest College		63
Earlham College	106	
University of Notre Dame		205
Grinnell College		81
Luther College		373
Centre College		197
Union College		203
Hampshire College		73
Albion College		164
Gustavus Adolphus College		178
Macalester College		157
St. Olaf College		520
St. Lawrence University		255
Sarah Lawrence College		62
St. John Fisher College		190
Vassar College		352
Kenyon College		89
Wittenberg University		143
College of Wooster		30
Willamette University		250
Bucknell University		281
Franklin and Marshall College		82
Juniata College		136
Lafayette College		430
Widener University		140
Bryant University		63
Furman University		390
Austin College		121

	Earlham College	All Other Participants
	Count	Count
Bennington College		69
University of Puget Sound		98
Beloit College		53
VALID N	106	6167

		Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Q.1 Library Usage:					
Community or public library	Once a week or more	18	18.0%	379	6.4%
	Once or twice a month	26	26.0%	1242	20.9%
	A few times a year	38	38.0%	2655	44.7%
	Never	18	18.0%	1666	28.0%
Valid Cases		100	100.0%	5942	100.0%
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College or university library	Once a week or more	4	4.0%	464	8.0%
	Once or twice a month	15	15.2%	499	8.6%
	A few times a year	26	26.3%	1357	23.5%
	Never	54	54.5%	3458	59.8%
Valid Cases		99	100.0%	5778	100.0%
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High school library	Once a week or more	24	23.3%	1591	26.2%
	Once or twice a month	27	26.2%	1905	31.4%
	A few times a year	33	32.0%	1917	31.6%
	Never	19	18.4%	657	10.8%
Valid Cases		103	100.0%	6070	100.0%

		Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Q.2 Most frequent reason for using a library:					
Recreation or other non-academic purposes		39	36.8%	1330	21.6%
Conducting research for school assignments or projects		28	26.4%	2458	39.9%
Other academic work		34	32.1%	2147	34.9%
Other		4	3.8%	99	1.6%
I did not use a library in the past year		1	.9%	123	2.0%
Valid Cases		106	100.0%	6157	100.0%

Q.3 Received instruction on use of library resources:	Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Yes	82	77.4%	4884	79.4%
No	24	22.6%	1264	20.6%
Valid Cases	106	100.0%	6148	100.0%

Q.4 Number of papers requiring at least 3 sources:	Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Five or more	53	50.5%	2780	45.1%
Three or four	30	28.6%	2069	33.6%
One or two	20	19.0%	1177	19.1%
None	2	1.9%	133	2.2%
Valid Cases	105	100.0%	6159	100.0%

Q.5 Print Sources Used:	Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Library books	96	90.6%	5172	84.0%
Encyclopedias, almanacs, dictionaries	68	64.2%	4463	72.5%
Academic or research journals	44	41.5%	2700	43.8%
Newspapers or magazines	50	47.2%	3379	54.9%
Other	28	26.4%	982	15.9%
No print sources	4	3.8%	199	3.2%

Total percentages sum to more than 100.0%. Multiple Responses Allowed.

Q.6 Online Sources Used:	Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Google, Yahoo or other search engine	96	90.6%	5679	92.1%
Online journals, magazines, newspapers	78	73.6%	5009	81.3%
Online library catalog	47	44.3%	3013	48.9%
Online booksellers	31	29.2%	1351	21.9%
Online indexes or databases	47	44.3%	3100	50.3%
Google Scholar	14	13.2%	892	14.5%
Other	31	29.2%	1088	17.7%
No online sources			26	.4%

Total percentages sum to more than 100.0%. Multiple Responses Allowed.

Q.7 Information management tools used:	Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Paper folders, files, note cards	83	78.3%	5232	85.0%
Computer folders or files	98	92.5%	5476	89.0%
Online tools	36	34.0%	1979	32.2%
E-mail	67	63.2%	3581	58.2%
Bibliographic software	7	6.6%	826	13.4%
Other	15	14.2%	526	8.5%
No tools	2	1.9%	65	1.1%

Total percentages sum to more than 100.0%. Multiple Responses Allowed.

Q.8 Required to use specific format for sources:	Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Almost always	69	65.1%	4274	69.4%
Often	12	11.3%	801	13.0%
Sometimes	7	6.6%	503	8.2%
Rarely	11	10.4%	317	5.1%
Never/not applicable	7	6.6%	262	4.3%
Valid Cases	106	100.0%	6157	100.0%

Q.9 Sought advice from the following:	Earlham College		All Other Participants		
Teachers or professors	Almost always	24	22.9%	1311	21.3%
	Often	45	42.9%	2460	40.0%
	Sometimes	20	19.0%	1799	29.3%
	Rarely	12	11.4%	487	7.9%
	Never/not applicable	4	3.8%	91	1.5%
Valid Cases		105	100.0%	6148	100.0%
Librarians	Almost always	4	3.8%	193	3.2%
	Often	15	14.4%	656	10.8%
	Sometimes	27	26.0%	1682	27.6%
	Rarely	34	32.7%	2226	36.5%
	Never/not applicable	24	23.1%	1336	21.9%
Valid Cases		104	100.0%	6093	100.0%

Q.9 Sought advice from the following:		Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Parents or other adult family	Almost always	10	9.6%	474	7.8%
	Often	17	16.3%	1175	19.4%
	Sometimes	34	32.7%	1761	29.0%
	Rarely	23	22.1%	1679	27.7%
	Never/not applicable	20	19.2%	983	16.2%
Valid Cases		104	100.0%	6072	100.0%
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Friends, classmates, or siblings	Almost always	10	9.7%	746	12.2%
	Often	39	37.9%	2251	36.9%
	Sometimes	32	31.1%	2140	35.1%
	Rarely	18	17.5%	750	12.3%
	Never/not applicable	4	3.9%	207	3.4%
Valid Cases		103	100.0%	6094	100.0%
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Writing labs, centers, or help groups	Almost always	1	1.0%	119	2.0%
	Often	4	3.9%	345	5.7%
	Sometimes	11	10.7%	703	11.6%
	Rarely	24	23.3%	1476	24.3%
	Never/not applicable	63	61.2%	3423	56.4%
Valid Cases		103	100.0%	6066	100.0%
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Help screens, online tutorials or other	Almost always			102	1.7%
	Often	8	7.8%	299	4.9%
	Sometimes	12	11.7%	815	13.4%
	Rarely	19	18.4%	1528	25.2%
	Never/not applicable	64	62.1%	3316	54.7%
Valid Cases		103	100.0%	6060	100.0%

Q.10 Talked with librarian about research:		Earlham College		All Other Participants	
	Five or more times	7	6.6%	293	4.8%
	Three or four times	11	10.4%	870	14.1%
	Once or twice	50	47.2%	2663	43.2%
	Never	38	35.8%	2332	37.9%
Valid Cases		106	100.0%	6158	100.0%

Q.11 Pacing of work on research assignment:	Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Do most work soon after an assignment is given	9	8.5%	527	8.6%
Divide the across the available time	27	25.5%	1852	30.1%
Do a little right away, most toward the end	61	57.5%	3435	55.8%
Do all work just before or on the due date	9	8.5%	346	5.6%
Valid Cases	106	100.0%	6160	100.0%

Q.12 Challenge of research components:	Earlham College		All Other Participants		
Narrowing your topic	Very easy	26	24.5%	1037	16.9%
	Somewhat easy	50	47.2%	3308	53.8%
	Somewhat difficult	26	24.5%	1477	24.0%
	Very difficult	3	2.8%	290	4.7%
	No experience	1	.9%	31	.5%
Valid Cases	106	100.0%	6143	100.0%	
Developing a list of sources to investigate	Very easy	25	24.0%	1430	23.4%
	Somewhat easy	48	46.2%	3011	49.2%
	Somewhat difficult	25	24.0%	1439	23.5%
	Very difficult	4	3.8%	175	2.9%
	No experience	2	1.9%	66	1.1%
Valid Cases	104	100.0%	6121	100.0%	
Revising your search strategy as necessary	Very easy	23	22.5%	1136	18.7%
	Somewhat easy	41	40.2%	2866	47.3%
	Somewhat difficult	31	30.4%	1743	28.7%
	Very difficult	6	5.9%	219	3.6%
	No experience	1	1.0%	100	1.6%
Valid Cases	102	100.0%	6064	100.0%	
Developing your main argument or thesis statement	Very easy	20	19.0%	1040	17.0%
	Somewhat easy	49	46.7%	2514	41.0%
	Somewhat difficult	28	26.7%	2001	32.6%
	Very difficult	8	7.6%	561	9.1%
	No experience			16	.3%
Valid Cases	105	100.0%	6132	100.0%	

Q.12 Challenge of research components:		Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Organizing resources into logical unified structure	Very easy	28	26.7%	1570	25.6%
	Somewhat easy	46	43.8%	2626	42.8%
	Somewhat difficult	23	21.9%	1560	25.4%
	Very difficult	8	7.6%	368	6.0%
	No experience			16	.3%
Valid Cases		105	100.0%	6140	100.0%
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Writing the paper	Very easy	31	29.5%	1519	24.7%
	Somewhat easy	40	38.1%	2731	44.4%
	Somewhat difficult	27	25.7%	1524	24.8%
	Very difficult	7	6.7%	362	5.9%
	No experience			10	.2%
Valid Cases		105	100.0%	6146	100.0%
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Documenting your sources	Very easy	29	27.6%	1932	31.5%
	Somewhat easy	51	48.6%	2488	40.5%
	Somewhat difficult	22	21.0%	1347	21.9%
	Very difficult	2	1.9%	338	5.5%
	No experience	1	1.0%	35	.6%
Valid Cases		105	100.0%	6140	100.0%

Q.13 Challenge of identifying/retrieving sources:		Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Using a library catalog	Very easy	36	34.0%	1835	29.9%
	Somewhat easy	39	36.8%	2396	39.0%
	Somewhat difficult	16	15.1%	1174	19.1%
	Very difficult	5	4.7%	203	3.3%
	No experience	10	9.4%	531	8.6%
Valid Cases		106	100.0%	6139	100.0%
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Using an electronic index	Very easy	21	20.0%	1556	25.3%
	Somewhat easy	37	35.2%	2058	33.5%
	Somewhat difficult	14	13.3%	1003	16.3%
	Very difficult	2	1.9%	174	2.8%
	No experience	31	29.5%	1350	22.0%

Q.13 Challenge of identifying/retrieving sources:		Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Valid Cases		105	100.0%	6141	100.0%
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Using a print index	Very easy	25	24.0%	1244	20.4%
	Somewhat easy	29	27.9%	1856	30.5%
	Somewhat difficult	16	15.4%	1161	19.1%
	Very difficult	3	2.9%	185	3.0%
	No experience	31	29.8%	1646	27.0%
Valid Cases		104	100.0%	6092	100.0%
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Using an internet search engine	Very easy	86	82.7%	4528	74.0%
	Somewhat easy	12	11.5%	1237	20.2%
	Somewhat difficult	5	4.8%	291	4.8%
	Very difficult			44	.7%
	No experience	1	1.0%	22	.4%
Valid Cases		104	100.0%	6122	100.0%
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Physically locating sources in a library	Very easy	34	33.0%	1887	30.8%
	Somewhat easy	55	53.4%	2774	45.3%
	Somewhat difficult	11	10.7%	1171	19.1%
	Very difficult	1	1.0%	188	3.1%
	No experience	2	1.9%	110	1.8%
Valid Cases		103	100.0%	6130	100.0%
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Obtaining materials through interlibrary loan	Very easy	8	7.6%	759	12.4%
	Somewhat easy	29	27.6%	1328	21.7%
	Somewhat difficult	16	15.2%	1015	16.6%
	Very difficult	2	1.9%	170	2.8%
	No experience	50	47.6%	2852	46.6%
Valid Cases		105	100.0%	6124	100.0%

Q.14 Challenge of using sources:		Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Determining whether a source is appropriate	Very easy	38	36.2%	2371	38.7%
	Somewhat easy	57	54.3%	3038	49.5%
	Somewhat difficult	9	8.6%	654	10.7%
	Very difficult			45	.7%
	No experience	1	1.0%	26	.4%
Valid Cases		105	100.0%	6134	100.0%
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Deciding what information from sources to integrate	Very easy	34	32.4%	2014	32.9%
	Somewhat easy	47	44.8%	2800	45.8%
	Somewhat difficult	22	21.0%	1172	19.2%
	Very difficult	2	1.9%	115	1.9%
	No experience			17	.3%
Valid Cases		105	100.0%	6118	100.0%
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Knowing when to document a source	Very easy	25	23.8%	1787	29.2%
	Somewhat easy	43	41.0%	2446	39.9%
	Somewhat difficult	33	31.4%	1589	25.9%
	Very difficult	2	1.9%	270	4.4%
	No experience	2	1.9%	36	.6%
Valid Cases		105	100.0%	6128	100.0%
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Knowing how to document a source	Very easy	23	22.1%	1488	24.3%
	Somewhat easy	44	42.3%	2640	43.2%
	Somewhat difficult	31	29.8%	1636	26.8%
	Very difficult	5	4.8%	314	5.1%
	No experience	1	1.0%	34	.6%
Valid Cases		104	100.0%	6112	100.0%

Q.15 Enjoyment of research:		Earlham College		All Other Participants	
	Very much	9	8.6%	285	4.6%
	Quite a bit	28	26.7%	1404	22.8%
	Some	50	47.6%	3060	49.8%
	Very little	18	17.1%	1399	22.8%
Valid Cases		105	100.0%	6148	100.0%

Q.16 Beliefs about research:		Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Skillful researchers know the best way	Strongly agree	22	21.4%	1239	20.2%
	Agree	62	60.2%	4117	67.3%
	Disagree	19	18.4%	731	11.9%
	Strongly disagree			32	.5%
	Valid Cases	103	100.0%	6119	100.0%
A course in research skills would be useful	Strongly agree	17	16.5%	1240	20.3%
	Agree	67	65.0%	3595	58.8%
	Disagree	17	16.5%	1197	19.6%
	Strongly disagree	2	1.9%	86	1.4%
	Valid Cases	103	100.0%	6118	100.0%
When two researchers disagree, one must be wrong	Strongly agree	1	1.0%	93	1.5%
	Agree	5	4.8%	354	5.8%
	Disagree	62	59.6%	3806	62.3%
	Strongly disagree	36	34.6%	1859	30.4%
	Valid Cases	104	100.0%	6112	100.0%
Successful researchers understand things quickly	Strongly agree	3	2.9%	155	2.5%
	Agree	21	20.4%	1750	28.7%
	Disagree	73	70.9%	3730	61.1%
	Strongly disagree	6	5.8%	467	7.7%
	Valid Cases	103	100.0%	6102	100.0%
Careful researchers can ultimately get to the truth	Strongly agree	9	8.7%	713	11.7%
	Agree	66	63.5%	3525	57.8%
	Disagree	26	25.0%	1709	28.0%
	Strongly disagree	3	2.9%	153	2.5%
	Valid Cases	104	100.0%	6100	100.0%
If a researcher cannot understand something quickly, she should keep trying	Strongly agree	33	31.7%	2380	38.9%
	Agree	67	64.4%	3468	56.7%
	Disagree	3	2.9%	224	3.7%
	Strongly disagree	1	1.0%	40	.7%
	Valid Cases	104	100.0%	6112	100.0%

Q.16 Beliefs about research:		Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Good research yields clear results, poor research yields ambiguous results	Strongly agree	19	18.3%	1098	18.0%
	Agree	49	47.1%	2976	48.7%
	Disagree	32	30.8%	1727	28.3%
	Strongly disagree	4	3.8%	304	5.0%
Valid Cases		104	100.0%	6105	100.0%
Some people are just naturally better	Strongly agree	16	15.4%	754	12.3%
	Agree	53	51.0%	3603	58.9%
	Disagree	30	28.8%	1582	25.9%
	Strongly disagree	5	4.8%	177	2.9%
Valid Cases		104	100.0%	6116	100.0%

Q.17 Search that would retrieve the most results:	Earlham College		All Other Participants	
movies OR films	33	31.1%	1739	28.3%
movies AND films	46	43.4%	2817	45.8%
movies NOT films	2	1.9%	202	3.3%
movies INSTEAD OF films	2	1.9%	200	3.2%
Don't know	23	21.7%	1196	19.4%
Valid Cases	106	100.0%	6154	100.0%

Response 1, Movies OR films, is the most accurate response.

Q.18 Correct way to truncate a search word:	Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Typing only the first syllable as a keyword	8	7.5%	360	5.9%
Combining search words with 'and', 'or,' or 'not'	7	6.6%	1021	16.6%
Using an * or ! symbol in place of the last few letters	8	7.5%	565	9.2%
None of the above	24	22.6%	1163	18.9%
Don't know	59	55.7%	3036	49.4%
Valid Cases	106	100.0%	6145	100.0%

Response 3, Using * or !, is the most accurate response.

Q.19 Efficient way to find a comprehensive listing:	Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Identifying other books written by the same authors	3	2.8%	263	4.3%
Examining the bibliography in the book	25	23.6%	1559	25.4%
Scanning the shelves where the book is located	24	22.6%	1012	16.5%
Searching again using subject headings that closely match	40	37.7%	2442	39.7%
Don't know	14	13.2%	871	14.2%
Valid Cases	106	100.0%	6147	100.0%

Response 4, Searching again, is the most accurate response.

Q.20 Distinguishing between academic journals and other:	Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Academic journal articles provide objective facts	38	36.5%	2026	33.2%
Academic journal articles include a list of scholarly references	11	10.6%	958	15.7%
The intended audience for academic journals is mainly scholars	22	21.2%	1105	18.1%
Editors and authors of academic journal articles employed in higher education	14	13.5%	823	13.5%
Don't know	19	18.3%	1189	19.5%
Valid Cases	104	100.0%	6101	100.0%

Response 1, journals provide objective facts, is the most accurate response.

Q.21 Recognizing the issue number in a reference:	Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Volume 2002, Number 44	2	1.9%	129	2.1%
Volume 44, Number 1	84	80.8%	5222	85.4%
Volume 1, Number 145-153	10	9.6%	476	7.8%
The issue cannot be determined	8	7.7%	285	4.7%
Valid Cases	104	100.0%	6112	100.0%

Response 2, Volume 44, Number 1, is the most accurate response.

Q.22a Recognizing source - Journal article:	Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Jorgenson, Lars W. Entire book	6	5.8%	219	3.6%
Journal article	27	26.2%	1621	26.6%
Portion of a book	67	65.0%	3921	64.3%
Don't know	3	2.9%	341	5.6%
Valid Cases	103	100.0%	6102	100.0%

Response 2, Journal article, is the most accurate response.

Q.22b Recognizing source - Book:		Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Allen, Glover	Entire book	82	80.4%	4460	73.1%
Morrill.Bats.	Journal article	16	15.7%	1232	20.2%
	Portion of a book	1	1.0%	125	2.0%
	Don't know	3	2.9%	281	4.6%
Valid Cases		102	100.0%	6098	100.0%

Response 1, Entire book, is the most accurate response.

Q.22c Recognizing source - Portion of a book:		Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Tanaka, Kazuko.	Entire book	14	13.7%	1159	19.0%
	Journal article	57	55.9%	3383	55.6%
	Portion of a book	28	27.5%	1196	19.6%
	Don't know	3	2.9%	350	5.7%
Valid Cases		102	100.0%	6088	100.0%

Response 3, Portion of a book, is the most accurate response.

Q.23 Distinguishing between primary and secondary sources:		Earlham College		All Other Participants	
	Primary sources are more scholarly	3	2.9%	146	2.4%
	Primary sources are old	1	1.0%	101	1.6%
	Primary sources examine subjects first-hand	80	76.9%	4596	75.0%
	Primary sources are more appropriate for academic projects	1	1.0%	282	4.6%
	All of the above	6	5.8%	362	5.9%
	Don't know	13	12.5%	639	10.4%
Valid Cases		104	100.0%	6126	100.0%

Response 3, Primary sources examine the subjects first-hand, is the most accurate response.

Q.24 Identifying search strategy yielding most relevant sources:		Earlham College		All Other Participants	
	Searching in an index or database a specific academic field	52	50.0%	2640	43.2%
	Using a general Internet search engine	5	4.8%	261	4.3%
	Paging through print volumes in a specific academic field	6	5.8%	618	10.1%
	Searching the library catalog	12	11.5%	846	13.9%
	All of the above	19	18.3%	1009	16.5%
	Don't know	10	9.6%	733	12.0%
Valid Cases		104	100.0%	6107	100.0%

Response 1, Searching in an index or database, is the most accurate response.

Q.25 Defining peer-reviewed/refereed journal:	Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Publishes reviews of other articles	6	5.7%	484	7.9%
Publishes articles approved by other scholars	55	52.4%	2850	46.7%
Includes only articles written collaboratively by peers	5	4.8%	564	9.2%
Includes references for each article it publishes	4	3.8%	147	2.4%
Don't know	35	33.3%	2055	33.7%
Valid Cases	105	100.0%	6100	100.0%

Response 2, Publishes articles approved by other scholars, is the most accurate response.

Q.26 Defining citation:	Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Direct quotation from someone else's written work	6	5.8%	720	11.7%
Source information for any ideas or text from written work	64	61.5%	3275	53.4%
Physical location of a source	2	1.9%	278	4.5%
All of the above	27	26.0%	1538	25.1%
Don't know	5	4.8%	317	5.2%
Valid Cases	104	100.0%	6128	100.0%

Response 2, Source information for any ideas or text from written work, is the most accurate response.

Q.27 Recognizing when citation is not required:	Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Paraphrasing, not quoting, a source	7	6.6%	342	5.6%
More than one source says the same thing	7	6.6%	231	3.8%
Describing own findings or analysis	72	67.9%	4162	67.8%
All of the above	12	11.3%	1055	17.2%
Don't know	8	7.5%	346	5.6%
Valid Cases	106	100.0%	6136	100.0%

Response 3, Describing own findings or analysis, is the most accurate response.

Q.28a Distinguishing between scholarly and non-scholarly:	Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Available online Scholarly	11	10.7%	462	7.6%
Non-scholarly	13	12.6%	592	9.7%
Cannot be determined	75	72.8%	4693	76.8%
Don't know	4	3.9%	367	6.0%
Valid Cases	103	100.0%	6114	100.0%

Response 3, Cannot be determined, is the most accurate response.

Q.28b Distinguishing between scholarly and non-scholarly:		Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Translated from another language	Scholarly	21	20.2%	792	13.0%
	Non-scholarly	7	6.7%	365	6.0%
	Cannot be determined	67	64.4%	4380	72.2%
	Don't know	9	8.7%	532	8.8%
Valid Cases		104	100.0%	6069	100.0%

Response 3, Cannot be determined, is the most accurate response.

Q.28c Distinguishing between scholarly and non-scholarly:		Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Published in a peer-reviewed journal	Scholarly	68	66.0%	3871	63.6%
	Non-scholarly	9	8.7%	632	10.4%
	Cannot be determined	8	7.8%	723	11.9%
	Don't know	18	17.5%	857	14.1%
Valid Cases		103	100.0%	6083	100.0%

Response 1, Scholarly, is the most accurate response.

Q.28d Distinguishing between scholarly and non-scholarly:		Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Posted on a political blog	Scholarly	6	5.9%	430	7.1%
	Non-scholarly	64	62.7%	3472	57.0%
	Cannot be determined	26	25.5%	1722	28.3%
	Don't know	6	5.9%	464	7.6%
Valid Cases		102	100.0%	6088	100.0%

Response 2, Non-scholarly, is the most accurate response.

Q.28e Distinguishing between scholarly and non-scholarly:		Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Recently published	Scholarly	9	8.7%	1017	16.7%
	Non-scholarly	6	5.8%	271	4.5%
	Cannot be determined	81	77.9%	4378	72.0%
	Don't know	8	7.7%	411	6.8%
Valid Cases		104	100.0%	6077	100.0%

Response 3, Cannot be determined, is the most accurate response.

Q.28f Distinguishing between scholarly and non-scholarly:		Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Lengthy list of references	Scholarly	69	67.0%	3858	63.4%
	Non-scholarly	1	1.0%	188	3.1%
	Cannot be determined	25	24.3%	1665	27.4%
	Don't know	8	7.8%	371	6.1%
Valid Cases		103	100.0%	6082	100.0%

Response 1, Scholarly, is the most accurate response.

Q.28g Distinguishing between scholarly and non-scholarly:		Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Published by a university press	Scholarly	75	72.8%	4664	76.7%
	Non-scholarly	2	1.9%	188	3.1%
	Cannot be determined	20	19.4%	869	14.3%
	Don't know	6	5.8%	361	5.9%
Valid Cases		103	100.0%	6082	100.0%

Response 1, Scholarly, is the most accurate response.

Q.28h Distinguishing between scholarly and non-scholarly:		Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Published in Time, Newsweek, USNews	Scholarly	39	37.5%	3091	50.8%
	Non-scholarly	29	27.9%	1304	21.4%
	Cannot be determined	24	23.1%	1171	19.2%
	Don't know	12	11.5%	524	8.6%
Valid Cases		104	100.0%	6090	100.0%

Response 2, Non-scholarly, is the most accurate response.

Q.29 Recognizing least appropriate source:		Earlham College		All Other Participants	
(1980 University press book)		3	2.9%	451	7.4%
(2000 Encyclopedia volumes)		33	31.7%	1525	25.1%
(1997 Book retrieved from electronic web archive)		4	3.8%	423	7.0%
(2002 Journal article)		6	5.8%	493	8.1%
(2006 Personal webpage)		58	55.8%	3193	52.5%
Valid Cases		104	100.0%	6085	100.0%

Response 5, 2006 Personal webpage, is the most accurate response.

Q.30 Basis for source selection:	Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Likely to be scholarly	39	38.2%	2664	44.2%
How recently it was published	6	5.9%	218	3.6%
Print or internet	11	10.8%	892	14.8%
Number of pages with information	14	13.7%	314	5.2%
All of the above are equally important	32	31.4%	1938	32.2%
Valid Cases	102	100.0%	6026	100.0%

Response 1, Likely to be scholarly, is the most accurate response.

Q.31 Best way to determine whether to use a source:	Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Print or internet	3	2.9%	148	2.4%
How recently it was published	3	2.9%	283	4.6%
How easily you can get the source	2	1.9%	267	4.4%
Source is scholarly	43	41.3%	2303	37.8%
Author is highly respected	4	3.8%	121	2.0%
All of the above are equally valid	49	47.1%	2975	48.8%
Valid Cases	104	100.0%	6097	100.0%

Response 4, Source is scholarly, is the most accurate response.

Q.32 College Classification:	Earlham College		All Other Participants	
First Year	106	100.0%	6167	100.0%
Valid Cases	106	100.0%	6167	100.0%

Q.33 Gender:	Earlham College		All Other Participants	
Male	38	36.2%	2279	37.1%
Female	67	63.8%	3867	62.9%
Valid Cases	105	100.0%	6146	100.0%

Q.34 Ethnicity:	Earlham College		All Other Participants	
White/Caucasian	82	78.1%	5278	86.3%
African American/Black	8	7.6%	239	3.9%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2	1.9%	85	1.4%
Asian American/Asian	10	9.5%	502	8.2%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	2	1.9%	40	.7%
Hispanic/Latino	5	4.8%	304	5.0%
Other	14	13.3%	181	3.0%
Valid Cases	105	100.0%	6115	100.0%

Percentages may sum to more than 100.0%. Multiple Responses Allowed.