

Survey on Bibliographic Searches (*check and/or respond*)

1. How often do you search the literature for background material on your (thesis) research topic, i.e., look up a paper, find out about previous work on the topic, follow up through forward or backward citations, or just get inspiration?

- Continuously** (every day for sure)
- Very regularly** (several times per week)
- Regularly** (~ once a week, perhaps in connection with my research meeting)
- Irregularly** (when asked to by my advisor, or if the occasional problem shows up)
- Rarely** (when I started the research, maybe once or twice since)
- Never**
- Other** (explain)

2. How often do you think that you SHOULD search the literature for background material on your (thesis) research topic as described above?

- Continuously** (every day for sure)
- Very regularly** (several times per week)
- Regularly** (~ once a week, perhaps in connection with my research meeting)
- Irregularly** (when asked to by my advisor, or if the occasional problem shows up)
- Rarely** (when I started the research, maybe once or twice since)
- Never**
- Other** (explain)

Survey on Bibliographic Searches (*continued*)

3. If your answers under 1 and 2 do not match, explain what causes the discrepancy (lack of time, difficulty of access, lack of success in previous searches ...)

4. Rank the following “search engines” according to the frequency – or likelihood – of use (1 = most used, 2 = next most used, Leave blank if you never use)

- Applied Science and Technology Abstracts (EBSCO)
- ArXiv preprint
- Google Scholar Search
- Google Search
- Journal Webpage Search and Browse (e.g., “Search APS Journals” on APS page)
- Spin (ISI)
- Web of Science
- Wikipedia
- Other (list)

5. Do you ever use/combine two or more search engines for the same question? If so which ones would that be?

- Always:
- Sometimes:
- Never

Survey on Bibliographic Searches (*continued*)

6. Rank the following “search engines” according to scientific reliability (1 = most reliable, 2 = next most reliable... Leave blank if you have no opinion on specific engines)

- Applied Science and Technology Abstracts (EBSCO)
- ArXiv preprint
- Google Scholar Search
- Google Search
- Journal Webpage Search and Browse (e.g., “Search APS Journals” on APS page)
- Spin (ISI)
- Web of Science
- Wikipedia
- Other (list)

7. Your ranking in the previous question is mostly based on which of the following criteria? Rank all that apply

- Reputation – common knowledge among peers
- Authority: mentor, librarian, or instructors
- Personal experience (good or bad) from prior use
- Specific features of engine (quality of website, search features)
- Other (explain)

Survey on Bibliographic Searches (*continued*)

8. Do you ever discuss literature searches or search engines with others? If so, who would that be and how frequently (frequently, rarely, never) do you do it?

- Peers
- Mentor
- 416 peers and instructors
- Family/friends
- Others (explain)

9. For everything you know and understand about your thesis research subject at this point, the most important sources of information overall have been (rank all that have contributed in order of importance):

- Course work & textbooks
- Discussion with mentor (thesis advisor)
- Discussion with peers
- Research group meetings
- Professional Conferences and colloquia
- Independent thinking (your own creativity)
- Other (explain)

Survey on Bibliographic Searches (*end*)

10. You may add any comments/feedback on bibliographic searches in general or on this survey in particular here: