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Practice Questions #2

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Preface: My preliminary research included scanning and reading our GoogleDoc to help match the annotated resources with questions that could potentially be answered by said resources. Where I note that I conducted this preliminary search, it should be known that this was done in one or two sittings, not individually per question.

1. I am in a class about the history of technology, and I am trying to figure out when the word “window” was first used in reference to a computer’s display. I am quite sure that this word was used in computer circles before Bill Gates and Microsoft started using that term. Can you help me find the year that the word “window” first was used, and give me the source where it first appeared in writing with this meaning? (Your answer needs to include a specific year and a source where this term appeared for part A.)

a: 1981.

Source: Johnson, J.; Roberts, T. L.; Verplank, W.; Smith, D.C.; Irby, C. H.; Beard, M.; Mackey, K.. “The Xerox Star: A Retrospective”. IEEE Computer. 22, 9 (September), 11–29, (1989): The term “window” appeared in this article to describe the Xerox Star’s 1981 pioneering work with graphical user interfaces.

b. I scanned the GoogleDoc for a source that seemed potentially helpful, and selected *Mc-Graw Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology*, which I accessed through Credo Reference by way of King Library. Out of sleep deprivation, I initially searched under “W” for window, which did not yield any matches. Next, I scanned the rows of “C” terms for “computer” which upon reading also did not represent a match. Next, I typed “computer window” into the search box and asked it to search all subjects. Still no matches, hmm.

I backtracked to Credo Reference’s homepage and searched the *Encyclopedia of 20th Century Technology* under “C” for computer. I selected “Computer Displays” from the long list of options relevant to computers. The description was informative but did not refer to the word “window”. I returned once again to Credo Reference’s homepage and scanned the sidebar for helpful search tips. I selected “Guides” but none of the available options were relevant to technology. I abandoned Credo and returned to King Library’s Online Reference Tools guide. I located Oxford Reference Online under the Encyclopedia tab and decided to search the *OED (Oxford English Dictionary*) for “window” out of curiosity. The *OED* lists 25 definitions for variations on the word “window”! It was fun to check the *OED* because I’m a dork but I would probably not refer to it in a similar situation with a patron. I returned to Credo and simply searched the entire database with the term “window”. The second hit “Window Environments” was from *The Encyclopedia of Computer Science* and looked promising. Under “Historical Trends”, I discovered that “Broad commercial exposure to windows came first in 1981 as part of the pioneering Xerox Star ([Johnson et al., 1989](http://www.credoreference.com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/entry.do?id=5881442#c23-0011_b0003)) and in 1984 with the Apple Macintosh ([Apple, 1985](http://www.credoreference.com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/entry.do?id=5881442#c23-0011_b0001)).” I Googled the Johnson citation but was unable to find the full-text article. I returned again to King Library’s databases, located the Computer Science libguide, recognized IEEE Xplore and searched the known journal by title: *IEEE Computer.* I was unable to locate the referenced article through the King Library e-journal databases. This time, I Googled the article by title and easily located the PDF. Upon scanning the Johnson article, I learned a bit more about Xerox Star’s use of computer windows as their GUI yet, I know this article is not the first source where this information appears so where is it?!

c. Q: I just started my first semester of library school and am taking a class on information retrieval. I’m totally overwhelmed! We’re expected to know what constitutes a “machine-readable form” so we can design databases. Egads. Can you help me?

A: Ah, yes good old Information Retrieval. That class is tough but you’ll learn a lot. I think we may be able to find the answer using our online databases. There we’ll find the *Encyclopedia of Computer Science,* a great resource for understanding all those befuddling techie terms. I log on through Credo Reference using my library password, select “Find a book” then scan the encyclopedias for the *Encyclopedia of Computer Science.* Now, let’s type “machine-readable” into the search box and see what comes up. Here we go, first hit. “Machine-readable form refers to the form in which information is encoded for direct, automatic input into a computer. Keyboard input is machine-readable, for example, because the machine senses which keys are depressed in which order.” Does this help clarify the term? There’s a lot more to read if you’re interested.

d. search: 53 minutes to write up and locate the answers

1. We were visiting relatives in Tennessee recently, and my nieces and nephews asked my kids to play “pretty girls’ station” with them. When my kids asked what they meant, they said, “You know! We’re going to play lemonade!” My kids were so confused, but they didn’t want to ask again. What were they talking about? (Your

answer needs to include a specific meaning of this term for part A.

* 1. Dictionary of American Regional English (DARE). This entry was found online at <http://dare.wisc.edu/?q=node/136>. A child’s outdoor game also known as “lemonade”, a “pretty girls’ station” is a kind of charade wherein players have to guess occupations of other players. Also played by “…recit[ing[ rhymes while advancing to other base; you perform an action; they have to guess what you’re doing.”
  2. I immediately remembered reading Professor Simmon’s post regarding DARE in our class’ Coffee Break forum in D2L. I returned there, found the post with the link, and accessed the limited online version of DARE at <http://dare.wisc.edu/>. Luckily, a sample online entry exists for “pretty girls’ station” which was a delight to read.

* 1. Q: We arrived on a late flight to visit my husband’s family in Dixon, Illinois and my mother-in-law said they had attended a “scramble dinner” the night before with some friends. I was so taxed from the flight that I didn’t ask but now I’m so curious and don’t want to trouble her with it now that we’re home. What does “scramble dinner” mean?

A: Ooh, I have just the source to show you, it’s one of my favorites! The Dictionary of American Regional English or DARE compiles colloquial terms specific to certain regions. All told, there are now six print volumes! There’s even a website which explains the history behind the genesis of DARE and 100 sample entries. Let’s see if “scramble dinner” is available on their website. It’s <http://dare.wisc.edu/> . I’ll select Samples, then click 100 Entries. They’re alphabetically arranged so let’s search the S’s. Yay, here it is! A “scramble dinner” is a potluck dinner where everyone contributes a dish.

* 1. 10 minutes.

1. I heard that the word “hooligan” came from a family name. Can you give me a brief explanation of the story about the family after whom this word was created?
   1. “The Hooligans were a fictional rowdy Irish family in a music hall song of the 1890s.” Source: "hooligan" *Oxford Dictionary of Word Origins*. by Julia Cresswell. *Oxford Reference Online*. Oxford University Press.  San Jose State University.  28 April 2012  <http://www.oxfordreference.com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t292.e2506>
   2. First, I scanned our class Google Doc for a source that seemed suitable for answering this question. I considered the *Random House Historical Dictionary of American Slang* to be a possible match but due to the late hour, I was unable to obtain a print copy from my local library. I resolved to explore King Library’s online databases and chose the Oxford Reference Online database because I wanted an excuse to further explore their English Language Reference sources (I think they’re really exciting!) and thought they would probably be useful to this search, of course. This time, I decided to cross-search the entire Oxford Reference Online database at once using their search engine. My search term was (you guessed it) “hooligan”. I received 14 total hits, the second of which was a match.
   3. Q: Can you help me find information about the origin of the story of Babel?

A: Yes, let’s look at the *Oxford Dictionary of Word Origins.* We can access it through our library’s subscription database: Oxford Reference Online - and if you’d like – you can also access it remotely with your library card and password. Here we are at the ORO: we can either do a quick search with the search term “Babel” or we can go straight to the *Oxford Dictionary of Word Origins.* For this search, I recommend going straight to the ODOWO because it’s a great match for what you need it to do. If we select the link for the ODOWO, we can again search the whole database or just this text. We can also browse the book using the alphabet. Let’s try that. B for “Babel”… Here it is: It’s from Genesis: “Genesis 11 tells the story of Babel, where God, angered by the arrogance of builders who thought they could reach heaven by erecting a tower, confused their language so that they could no longer understand each other. The word was originally Hebrew for ‘Babylon’, a name from the Babylonian Akkadian language meaning ‘gate of God’. The Bible story led to its use in English in the general sense of ‘a confusion of sounds’.

* 1. 12 minutes

1. SKIP I’m writing a novel about Union soldiers in the Civil War, and I want to know if they would have called someone a “douche bag.” How can I find out when the slang word “douche bag” came into the English language? (Your answer needs to include a year when the word “douche bag” began to be used as a deprecating term for another person.)

1. I was reading a novel set during the Great Depression, and a character was referred to as a “butter and egg man.” I think this must be some sort of slang. Can you help me find out what that term means? (Your answer needs include a specific meaning for this term for part A.)
   1. A “butter-and-egg man” is “a wealthy unsophisticated man who spends money freely.” Source: “butter-and-egg man *noun*" *Oxford Dictionary of Modern Slang*. John Ayto and John Simpson. *Oxford Reference Online*. Oxford University Press.  San Jose State University.  28 April2012  <http://www.oxfordreference.com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t291.e694>
   2. In checking our class GoogleDoc, I initially considered sourcing an answer in either the *Random House Historical Dictionary of American Slang* or perhaps the *Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms.* However, I was having so much fun navigating the ORO that I decided to search *the Oxford Dictionary of Modern Slang (ODOMS)* instead. I typed “butter and egg man” into the “quick search” box on the English Language Reference page and selected “search whole database” instead of selecting just the link for *the Oxford Dictionary of Modern Slang*. I was curious to see what kind of results I’d get in other ORO English Language Reference sources, and did not want to limit results to just the *ODOMS*. I received two hits: the aforementioned definition from the *ODOMS* and another from the *Oxford Companion to American Theatre in Performing Arts*. Another way one can evaluate results within the ORO is to select the blue CROSS-REFERENCE button in the left nav bar. Clicking this will yield similar results as searching the whole database. I was able to locate this definition very quickly, so I took a few extra minutes to explore this awesome resource.
   3. Q: My grandmother often tells my brother and I that we’re in cahoots. I tried to ask her what she meant but she shushed us out of the room. What is she talking about?

A: I think that means she suspects you and your brother are conspiring about something, but let’s confirm this with *the Oxford Dictionary of Modern Slang* just in case. It’s a cool resource for finding different kinds of slang from all over. So, here we are. We access *the Oxford Dictionary of Modern Slang* through Oxford Reference Online - which is also a really cool source. From the ORO homepage, we can type “cahoots” into the Quick Search box on the left hand side of the screen, or we can click the English Language Reference link and select *the Oxford Dictionary of Modern Slang* from a list of other sources. You seem like you’re bursting from the suspense so let’s just use the quick search box. Wow, 7 hits! We have *the Oxford Dictionary of English*, *the Oxford Dictionary of English Idioms*, and third on the list is *the Oxford Dictionary of Modern Slang.* They all seem to agree that to be in “cahoots” means to be working or conspiring with someone. I hope this answers your question. Come find us if you want to explore our databases, and I’ll set you up with a library card.

d. 5 minutes to research and write the answer

1. I can never figure out the difference between “affect” and “effect” and now I am in a sociology class and I need to use those two words all the time in my papers. My annoying professor took a ton of points off on my last paper because I guessed each time I had to use those two words (and evidently got them wrong each time). I looked in my Webster’s dictionary, and I don’t understand the distinction between the two definitions. I’m looking for a source that explains the two words in relation to each other. Can you show me a clear explanation for how these two words are used? (You don’t need to include an explanation of the grammar here—unless you want to! Just explain the source and how to use it for part a.)
   1. Fowler, H. W. (1996). *The new Fowler's modern English usage* (3rd ed.).  New York : Oxford University Press - the distinctions between affect and effect can be found on page 31 under affect/effect. Under the term effect on page 239, a cross-reference note refers readers to affect/effect. Users can easily find a desired term by browsing the alphabetically arranged text.

* 1. My first stop was our class Google Doc where I searched for a suitable source. It seemed obvious to seek help from *New Fowler’s Modern English Usage* so I visited my local library to browse that neat little tome. I had to request the non-circulating item from reference staff as it is stored behind the reference desk. I knew the text lacked the need for an index so I simply leafed through it for the word *effect*, and located it on page 239. However, a cross-reference note reads: “see affect/effect.” I quickly located the term affect on page 31 and learned that affect “means to have an influence” whereas effect means to “bring about cause, or produce result.”
  2. Q: My boss and I would like to settle a bet. He thinks people are “adverse” to loud noises whereas I think the proper usage is “averse.” Can you help us clarify the difference between averse and adverse?

A: Sure, we can probably check a guide we have here at our reference desk called *The new Fowler's modern English usage*. It helps clarify some of the vagaries of our language while helping folks like you and your boss settle bets ;). Just a moment, I’ll go retrieve it from the back. OK, I found it. The book is in alphabetical order so it’s pretty easy to search through. Browsing the A’s…here we go, page 28. Looks like you are right! “When the context requires a construction of the type ‘unfavorable + to a person’, the adjective selected is very rarely adverse.” It also says “use averse…”

d. 3 minutes to search the text

1. I know that Marcel Breuer is the architect that designed the library and a few other buildings at St. John’s University in Collegeville, Minnesota. I heard that he also designed a church somewhere in Michigan. I was thinking of taking a road trip through the Midwest to see some of his works. Can you figure out what church it is and in which city in Michigan? (You need to include the name of the church and the city for part A.)
   1. St. John’s Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota. Source: Marcel Breuer. (2012). In Encyclopedia Britannica. Retrieved from <http://britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/79018/Marcel-Breuer>
   2. First, I scanned our class Google Doc for a source that seemed suitable for answering this question. *Oxford Art Online* seemed like a match so I checked the ORO again but I was only able to find scattered information about Breuer’s affiliations with the Bauhaus movement. My search terms included “Marcel Breuer” and “Marcel Breuer” church. Next, I checked Credo Reference by simply typing the same search terms into the search box and told it to search all subjects. Again, I received myriad scattered information about the Bauhaus movement and Breuer’s artistic affiliations but since there were 71 hits and a ton of interesting bits to sort through, I opted to forsake distraction and find a more efficient source to streamline the specific answer I was looking for. I re-reviewed our GoogleDoc and decided to check out the *Encyclopedia Britannica* online : <http://britannica.com/> This was a match! Again, I simply typed “Marcel Breuer” into the search box, but this time I received relevant results. The first of 11 returned results was a match. The *Encyclopedia Britannica* gave a brief ad concise description of Marcel Breuer’s history ad career trajectory as well as his achievements in art and architecture like St. John’s Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota.
   3. Q: I need to write a report on Harriet Tubman for my third-grade history class and it’s due in two days. Luckily, we can use the Internet but help!

A: Oh, dear! Well, let’s get you started right away. One Internet source that springs to mind is the Encyclopedia Britannica Online: <http://britannica.com/> In the search box, we’ll type “Harriet Tubman” in quotes to see what comes up. When we use quotes, it helps the search engine know exactly what to look for. Oh, look there are three pages of information about Harriet Tubman. I’ll get you set up on a computer so you can explore this site further and then I’ll be at the desk if you have any questions. What’s that? Oh sure! I’d be happy to come check on you and see how you’re doing. Great idea ☺

* 1. 10 minutes

1. My father-in-law brought my son to a military band performance, and my six-year-old came home and excitedly said in front of the whole extended family, “Mom! I got to play with a tampon!” I did the best I could at suppressing my laughter, and then I tried to distract him and everyone else in the room by starting to serve the ice cream. What in heaven’s name was he talking about? (You need to include what a “tampon” is in this context as well as a recommended source for part A. Hint: the child is pronouncing the word correctly, and the mom did not mishear him.)

a. ***tampon***    (Fr.). Drumstick. A *tampon double* is a 2‐headed stick used to produce roll on bass drum (imitating thunder, etc.). Source: "tampon" *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Music*. Michael Kennedy and Joyce Kennedy. Oxford University Press, 2007. *Oxford Reference Online*. Oxford University Press.  San Jose State University.  30 April 2012  <http://www.oxfordreference.com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t76.e8944>

b. First, I scanned our class Google Doc for a source that seemed suitable for answering this question and decided to try browsing Oxford Music Online. From the homepage, one can perform an advanced or quick search using the search box in the left nav bar. I was curious about the ORO’s music collections so I browsed through the subject links, and selected Performing Arts. There were so many various and interesting sources that I decided to accept the simple streamlined use of the search box to save my patron’s time. I typed “tampon” as my search term and received one hit, yay! Precision *and* recall. The term was located in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary of Music*. A “tampon” is a “two-headed stick used to produce a roll on a bass drum.”

c. Q: My private music teacher has tons of cool-looking instruments in his studio but we always run out of time before I can ask him about them. I’m really intrigued by one in particular: a string instrument with a round body that looks like a banjo. Do you know where I can find more information about this instrument and the others he has?

A: It’s great to hear someone excited about making music! My husband is a drummer and I recognize that enthusiasm ☺ I know a source you might like: it’s called the *Concise Oxford Dictionary of Music.* It’s online in one of our subscription databases called Oxford Reference Online and you can browse it at one of our computer terminals as well as at homewith a valid library card. Great, you want to use a computer terminal. Here's an available terminal: G1. To get started, we can sign into the ORO, and then we can do a quick search using keywords like” banjo” to see what comes up. The trick with keywords is to find a word that seems to sum up the thing you’re looking for. Using “banjo” seems like a good place to start. Typing “banjo” into the quick search box in the top right of the screen, let’s ask it to search the whole database. OK, here we go.. Good, 30 hits, not bad. Now you’ll just need to scan the descriptions to determine which one is a match. Take your time and explore the databases, I’ll be right over there at the reference desk if you have any questions. Have fun!

d. 10 minutes to research and write up

1. I am going to be teaching a class on indigenous religions next semester, and I would like to include a unit about how indigenous religions have been represented in popular culture, specifically in film. Do you have a source that might give an overview of this topic? I am hoping the source might also provide a couple citations where I might find more information on the topic. (For part A, just include the source and explain how to use it.)
   1. *Encyclopedia of Religion and Film*. Retrieved from <http://catalog.sjlibrary.org/record=b4297882~S1> The online version is accessible through the King Library’s electronic books and can be read as an online PDF, then downloaded for further perusal if desired. Click READ ONLINE in the left nav bar, and the document will be ready for viewing. One can use the navigation tools at the top of the page to leaf through the document as well as to switch from the default IMG setting to a PDF-view. Along the left nav bar are a list of contents which include front matter, a list of entries, a guide to related topics, a preface, and appendices including a filmography and selected bibliography as well as the text’s content. Users can page through various sections of the document and also quickly locate information by clicking the blue diagonally placed SEARCH tab that separate the content menu from the document and entering desired search terms. Since the user in question is seeking information about how indigenous religions are portrayed in film, I would especially recommend browsing the filmography appendix along with the search term “indigenous religion”. I found some interesting examples about Japan’s Shinto religion illustrated using Hayao Miyazaki’s work which was exciting to read!
   2. First, I scanned our class Google Doc for a suitable source, and opted to investigate the online version of the *Encyclopedia of Religion and Film* to answer this question as it seemed like the best match.From King Library’s homepage, I typed “Encyclopedia of Religion and Film” into the catalog search box.
   3. Q: I’d like to learn more about how films incorporate modern myths to tell their story. Can you recommend a good electronic resource to get me started?

A: That sounds like an interesting topic. I’d be glad to help. I’m going to use our library’s catalog to see what kind of electronic resources we have about myths in film. And it sounds like you would benefit from an encyclopedic resource so let’s try typing “encyclopedia myth film” into our search box. Ooh, here we go, first hit is the *Encyclopedia of Religion and Film* accessible through our library’s subscription database. You can use one of our Internet terminals to browse this source and you can also access it from home using your library card.

* 1. 7 minutes to access and browse the document

1. I was sitting in my English class texting with my friend while checking my Facebook, and I looked up at the board and saw that my professor had written “Yale School.” Now I am trying to figure out what he was talking about because he’s really mean and I am supposed to write a paper about the topics we covered in class. Do you figure he was talking about that college where that smart girl from my high school went? I don’t get how that school relates to all this crazy literary theory stuff that we are supposed to be learning in class. Can you help me find a source that will tell me what he was talking about? And this probably isn’t the last time he is going to refer to some obscure literary term. Can you suggest a source that I can come back to in the future? (Include a brief definition of the term in addition to the recommended source for part A.)
   1. The “Yale School” was “a group of literary theorists and critics associated in the 1970s and 1980s with Yale University, formerly a bastion of the [**New Criticism**](http://www.oxfordreference.com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t56.e772&category=) in literary theory. The five identified members of the group were notable for their promotion of the then controversial project of [**deconstruction**](http://www.oxfordreference.com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t56.e290&category=).” "Yale school" *The Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms*. Chris Baldick. Oxford University Press, 2008. *Oxford Reference Online*. Oxford University Press.  San Jose State University.  28 April 2012 <http://www.oxfordreference.com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t56.e1231>
   2. Based on my experience providing a secondary annotation for step 1 of this assignment, I knew that the *Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms* would be a good source to consult as a starting point. I accessed it through King Library’s Online Reference Tools libguide, which is an amazing resource. I selected the Dictionaries tab, and selected Oxford Reference Online from the available options. From ORO’s homepage, I selected Literature under the Subject Reference header of links, and found the *Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms* among them. I typed “Yale School” in the search box and selected search this book. It was a direct hit, yielding a single and relevant result.
   3. Q: I’m one of those readers who constantly seek definitions to words or terms I don’t know. I even keep an autobiographical dictionary. There’s one term I’ve been curious about for years that I cannot find a definition for, and it’s driving me mad! It’s from the French but that’s all I can glean. Can you help me find a definition for fin de siècle?

A: I like this idea of an autobiographical dictionary, that’s really intriguing. Since you found this term through literary means, maybe it’s more a question for Oxford than for Webster. Let’s check out the *Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms,* which we can access through Oxford Reference Online. It’s a database that our library subscribes to, which you can also access from home with a library card. Here we are, logged into the database. Let’s use the “quick search” box with your definition and see what comes up. I’m pretty certain we’ll find it in the *Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms* but we can also search the whole database if we get stuck. Wow, it’s the only hit! It must be meant to be! As you suspected, fin de siècle is a French phrase meaning “end of century” and is “often used to refer to the characteristic world‐weary mood of European culture in the 1880s and 1890s, when writers and artists like Oscar Wilde, Aubrey Beardsley, and the French [**symbolists**](http://www.oxfordreference.com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t56.e1111&category=), under the slogan ‘ [**art**](http://www.oxfordreference.com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t56.e94&category=) for art's sake’, adopted a ‘decadent’ rejection of any moral or social function for art.” I’m glad we could find this definition for you! Good luck filling up that autobiographical dictionary!

* 1. 5 minutes to find the answer

1. I am writing a paper in which I need to compare the immigration patterns between the Irish-Americans and the Polish-Americans. I need to include things like religion, customs, food, holidays, as well as the way that each group assimilated. I’ve spent a huge amount of time dinking around with searches in Google, and all I am finding is stuff about St. Patrick’s Day parades and polka festivals. I’m getting really frustrated. Can you direct me to a source that will help me? (You don’t need to describe both groups; just include the source and explain how to use it for part A.)
   1. *Gale Encyclopedia of Multicultural America.* Retrieved from [*http://go.galegroup.com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/ps/infomark.do?action=interpret&actionString=DO\_DISPLAY\_ABOUT\_PAGE&tabID=T002&prodId=GVRL&docId=CX3405899999&type=aboutBook&version=1.0&authCount=1*](http://go.galegroup.com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/ps/infomark.do?action=interpret&actionString=DO_DISPLAY_ABOUT_PAGE&tabID=T002&prodId=GVRL&docId=CX3405899999&type=aboutBook&version=1.0&authCount=1)A search box in the left nav bar allows users to search all editions, all volumes in this edition, or to search within this volume. A menu header lists a table of contents tab, a book index, and a list of illustrations. Using the book index is a good place to begin one’s search as it allows users the option to enter a term or part of a term in the search box as well as browsing options. A helper alphabetical index allows users to jump through the alphabet easily without paging through data irrelevant to a given search.

* 1. First, I scanned our class Google Doc for a source that seemed suitable for answering this question, and chose the *Gale Encyclopedia of Multicultural America* as a starting point. I accessed the electronic version through King Library’s catalog. I typed “*Gale Encyclopedia of Multicultural America”* in the search box and received fast and relevant results linking to the Gale Virtual Reference Library. I consulted the Book Index tab in the header and used the helper alphabetical index to jump to the I’s for “Irish-Americans”. Within the over-arching subject of “Irish-Americans”, much information is present including acculturation, employment and economics, immigration and settlement, religion, traditions, customs, and beliefs. Them I consulted the helper alphabetical index once more to confirm that information concerning Polish-Americans was also present in the text. I paged through four pages of “P’s” and located similar information for this cultural group (it would have been more efficient to type “Polish-American” into the search box.
  2. Q: I’m planning my first trip to Italy and I’d like to learn more about my culture through unbiased means. My family has very strong opinions about how Italians should act, how we should dress, and I need a source that will give me a clue to Italian culture without all the baggage. Can you help me?

A: How exciting, a trip to Italy! It’s such a beautiful country. Well, let’s see: I think the *Gale Encyclopedia of Multicultural America* will help. We can access it as an electronic resource through our library, and you can also access it from home with your library card password. Here we are: the *Gale Encyclopedia of Multicultural America*.. Let’s click book index along the top menu, and then type “Italy” into the search box. Here we go… This gives you an overview, history, and information about Sicily and Italian-American culture as well. Does this match your needs? I’m glad to help you find other sources if you need more information. Good luck, and have a great time in Italy!

* 1. 12 minutes to find information relevant to search

1. When I lived in Belize, the people there referred to a bug in Spanish called *chinches gaucha*. When I asked someone what it was called in English, they said it was a kissing bug, and they said it was good luck to have them in a person’s house. Were they serious or were they just trying to freak me out? I’d like to find an authoritative source that gives the Latin name, a picture, a description of their habitat and behavior, and if they cause any diseases. Can you help me? (You need to find an authoritative source that provides all of the patron’s requests, but you don’t need to record all of the information. Just choose one or two facts about this kind of bug that you want to share with me. And try not to squirm as you learn about these little buggers.)
   1. *Encyclopedia Britannica*. <http://www.britannica.com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/EBchecked/topic/39144/assassin-bug?anchor=ref231068> [Melanolestes picipes](http://www.britannica.com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/EBchecked/topic/319455/kissing-bug) or “kissing bugs” derive their name from “the fact that it usually bites humans on the face around the mouth.”
   2. First, I scanned our class Google Doc for a source that seemed suitable for answering this question. I chose to begin my search with the help of *Grzimek’s Animal Life Encyclopedia*. I visited my local library and found all 17 pretty volumes in the reference stacks. A bit daunted by all that knowledge, I checked the cumulative index to discover there was not an entry listed for *chinche gaucha*. Next, I tried to access the *Enciclopedia Hispanica* through San Jose Public Library’s database but was denied access due to my lack of SJPL library card. I also tried the Encyclopedia Britannica (<http://www.britannica.com>) but received no relevant results after typing “chinche gaucha” into the search box. So, I tried “kissing bug” and received 3 results, none of which mentioned Belizean kissing bugs. I returned to our class GoogleDoc and consulted the link that Ann provided which allowed me access to a training site for the *Enciclopedia Hispanica*. Unfortunately, I was not able to search this site but I could probably tell you how to use it! I became desperate and consulted the ORO and King Library’s catalog but received no relevant results using the search terms: ”Belize kissing bug”, “chinche gaucha” and “kissing bug” Belize. I also searched the World Almanac with the search term “chinche gaucha” and “Belize kissing bug” but received no relevant results. I Googled it and discovered a few sources that refer to South American kissing bugs named “chinche” or “gaucha” extant in Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, and Texas but none of the 5 sources I consulted mentioned Belize. so, I returned to the Encyclopedia Britannica (<http://www.britannica.com>) where I typed “kissing bug” once again in the search box and think I may have finally found a suitable answer at <http://www.britannica.com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/EBchecked/topic/39144/assassin-bug?anchor=ref231068>
   3. Q: I’m writing a paper for my high school history class about human rights issues in Myanmar and would like more information about Aung San Suu Kyi. Where should I start looking?

A: My favorite source to consult when starting this kind of research paper is the Encyclopedia Britannica. You can even access it online now at [www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com). Let’s see what kind of information we can find on Aung San Suu Kyi. We can either enter her name in the search box or browse by name or subject. Let’s try entering her name in the search box. Wow, that was quick. Here we are: Aung San Suu Kyi (Myanmar politician and opposition leader) <http://www.britannica.com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/EBchecked/topic/43227/Aung-San-Suu-Kyi> - Does this seem like a good place for you to start? We can keep looking in other print sources if you’d like as well.

* 1. 40 minutes to search and type

1. Select an interesting source (print or electronic) that you discovered at your library. Then, go to the discoveries page for practice questions #2 in GoogleDocs site, and list the bibliographic information (include author, title, year published, and publisher—form doesn’t matter), write a brief annotation (no more than a sentence or two—this is considerably shorter than your previous annotation), and your question with the answer. If someone else has already included your source, just list your question under theirs. Please be sure to include your name. (5 points)

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**The *Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology***

Melissa Eleftherion Carr  
  
Hoad, T.F.  (Ed). (1996). *The concise Oxford dictionary of English etymology*. Retrieved from <http://www.oxfordreference.com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/views/BOOK_SEARCH.html?book=t27&subject=s8>   
  
The *Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology i*s an authoritative source for the origin and development of English words. It can accessed as part of Oxford Reference Online (ORO) along with myriad other English language reference texts among others.   
  
Q: I’m a new mother and spend many hours breastfeeding my three-month-old. In those moments of pause, I think about mothers and moms and even the origin of the word mamma. Where does mamma come from? Ha-ha, I mean from where does the word mama derive?   
A: That’s an interesting question. I wonder if we can find an answer in the *Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology: i*t’s a great source for learning the origin and development of words. We can access this text from the Oxford Reference Online, which is a virtual treasure trove of info about English (and other) languages. We can either type mamma or mama into the search box or we can browse using the alphabet to jump to the letter M. Let’s enter “mama” into the search box and see what comes up. OK, this refers us to see the entry for MAMMA.  Wow, this is interesting. The word Mamma is derived from one of the first syllables “instinctively uttered” by babies and young children. Well, I hope this answers your question, but I’d be happy to guide you through some more sources if you have a few extra minutes now that your husband is entertaining the baby..

**\*\*\*Please copy and paste your text for both primary and secondary annotations that you wrote and #13 (discovery annotation) from GoogleDocs to the bottom of your practice questions document so that I have all of your work in one document. Thanks!**

**Brewer’s Dictionary of Phrase and Fable**  
  
**Primary contributor:** Melissa Eleftherion Carr  
  
a.) Ayto, John. (2005). *Brewer’s Dictionary of Phrase and Fable* (17th ed.). New York: NY Harper Collins.  
  
b.) The Brewer’s Dictionary of Phrase and Fable makes findable ephemeral phrases and their definitions as well as fables from various literatures in one text. Included here are figures and events from German, Celtic, Greek and Roman mythologies; biblical figures, Modernist tales and tropes, Shakespearean plots and characters;  and other historical, classical and modern figures from famous literary works as well as references to popular culture and current iconographic symbols. This dictionary also compiles fables from antiquity through 2005. Allusions, idioms, place names, and their explications all exist shoulder to shoulder in this grand tome.  
  
c.) This dictionary is unique for its heterogeneous collection of words and their definitions as well as for its evident philological contribution to the celebration of a lexicon. It is a collection of “eclectic listings, one that offers the promise of serendipitous discoveries.” In this 17th edition can be found definitions for Calypso and Dumbledore; Thecla and theme parks; gobbledygook and Labarum. Indeed, to be found on a single page - a multiverse that includes crystallomancy, cub, Cuba, Rubik’s Cube, Cubism, cubit, cucking stool and cuckold (p. 342). Readers of such a book could potentially find endless words to both amuse and educate. There is an astonishing and unique lexicographic range compiled in this dictionary, which will be of interest to bibliophiles, philologists, researchers, students and most anyone curious about linguistics and/or language. In his foreword, Terry Pratchett refers to reading this text as “an idiosyncratic adventure, pulling you in and saying “This is in fact, not what you’re looking for; but it’s *much more interesting*.”  
  
d.) Entries are alphabetically arranged on a letter-by-letter basis. “Linguistically-related” words are grouped together. For example, “eat dirt, to”, “to eat salt with someone”, and “dog-eat-dog” are grouped under the heading “Eat.”  To aid findability, many cross-references have been included in small capitals.  
  
e.) Question: My grandfather has occasionally referred to some of his long-time friends as “gentleman-rankers.” Can you help me find out exactly what it means and how it’s used?  
  
Answer: Sure, we have a book called *Brewer’s Dictionary of Phrases and Fables* right here in the reference section that might have a definition for “gentleman-ranker.” This book compiles many different definitions of historical and currently used phrases. So, turning to G for “gentleman-ranker” – aha, here it is on pg. 568. “…Before the First World War this term was applied to a well-born educated man who enlisted as a private soldier, “in the ranks”. Ooh, and this is interesting: its origin is actually from Rudyard Kipling in 1892. If you want to know more, we can also do a search for Kipling’s works from that year and see what comes up.

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**Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms**

**Secondary contributor:** Melissa Eleftherion Carr  
  
Baldick, Chris. (2008). *The Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms.* Retrieved April 13, 2012 from [http://www.oxfordreference.com](http://www.oxfordreference.com/)  
  
The electronic version of the *Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms* is alphabetically arranged by term and includes an A-Z content guide to skip to a desired letter. Oxford Reference Online also provides users the option to browse the entire contents of ORO by subject, which allows one to perform cross-referenced searches for a given term across multiple sources offered by Oxford. Akin to this type of search is a “global search” capability that searches the entire Oxford database. Also available is the option to singularly cross-reference a specific term’s definition with another desired term.  
  
Q) I’m considering submitting an excerpt from my novel in progress for a literary contest I read about in Poets and Writers, though I don’t know whether my work would be considered an example of “New Woman” writing. What’s a “new woman?” And who makes these terms up anyway?!  
  
A) Ha-ha, I can totally relate to that! That sounds like a query for the *Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms.* If you’re familiar with the Oxford English Dictionary, you might be interested to learn about this source for your writing as well. We have a copy right here in our reference area but it is also accessible online through the library’s subscription. Let’s find a computer terminal that’s free and check the online version since you want to be able to access this remotely as well. From the library’s homepage, it’s two clicks to the listing of all our databases. Oxford Reference Online is the one you want. Enter your library ID and you’re in. Here we go: “New Woman writing”: “A body of fiction and drama concerning the ‘New Woman’, a type of self-assertive younger woman much discussed in the British press in the 1890s and the early **Edwardian** period as the focus for public debates about marriage and women's rights.” There’s a lot more here so I’ll let you read it and decide for yourself. Let me know if you have any further questions. Good luck!

74.5/75 Great job, Melissa! You managed the questions well, and your annotations were helpful. Thanks for your good work.