Ex. 1

1. "I'm compiling a list of books written about partridges, and want to know if one has already been made. Can you help me find out?"

Sample Questions:

How much information do you need?

What have you found?

Is there something specific about partridges that you are looking for?

Sources:

I would consult a bibliographic resource because I need to search the availability of books on a certain subject. One source is Bibliographic Index Plus for a current subject index of sources.

I would consult the library of congress, for a subject list of books about partridges in the United States. It is like a national catalog that provides accurate information about books in an online format that is accessible from any computer. Depending on how many books they are looking for, the library of congress would broaden their list outside their local library. Another resource is worldcat.org if the user is looking for books outside of the United States. I would use their search engines under subject search to help compile a list.

1. "Who was responsible for the posthumous publication and popularity of the writings of Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer? Was there an English translation before the 20th century?"

Questions:

How interesting! What are you looking to accomplish with this information? Is this for research, school assignment etc?

Sources:

I could look at a retro retrospective Bibliography starting from after 1870 when Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer died. It would provide information about the existence of books from before the 20th century onward. They are arranged by author and title and possibly contain publishing and location information.

I could also look at worldcat.org to help me look for books from Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer from after 1870 using their advance search options. This is useful because worldcat.org lists the holdings of libraries from around the world and could contain older books of Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer writings in a number of languages. It could also contain publication information. Through this I found this to help answer who first started to publish his work posthumous:

[**Obras de Gustavo A. Becquer.**](http://www.worldcat.org/title/obras-de-gustavo-a-becquer/oclc/4704548&referer=brief_results)

by Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer

http://static1.worldcat.org/wcpa/rel20130925/images/icon-bks.gif Book

Language: Spanish

Publisher: Madrid, F. Fé. 1885.

Database: WorldCat

And this for the first English translation:

[**Légendes espagnoles. Traduction de A. Fouquier. Dessins de S. Arcos.**](http://www.worldcat.org/title/legendes-espagnoles-traduction-de-a-fouquier-dessins-de-s-arcos/oclc/559213074&referer=brief_results)

by Gustavo Adolfo DOMÍNGUEZ BÉCQUER; Santiago Arcos; Achille FOUQUIER

http://static1.worldcat.org/wcpa/rel20130925/images/icon-bks.gif Book

Language: English

Publisher: Paris, Mesnil [printed], 1885.

1. "What are the titles of some books on the floral arts which are appropriate for a public library?"

Questions:

Is there something specific about the floral arts that you are looking for, such as floral arrangement, Wreaths, bridal bouquets, interior floral decoration?

I would then do a subject search in the public library catalog. I would use this, because the patron is looking for titles in a public library. I could also use Worldcat.org for books not located in our library if the books in my library or not satisfactory.

Ex. 2

1. "What is the origin of the word 'poptastic'?"

**Questions:**

What an interesting word! I often wonder where a lot of terms come from. Is their any other information about this word that you need?

Is this for personal interest or an assignment?

A dictionary would be consulted because dictionaries not only provide definitions but also contain information about word origins. I would specifically use the Oxford English Dictionary because it is the accepted authority of International English. Looking up ‘poptastic’ I find the following definition and origin information.

# poptastic, *adj.*

**Pronunciation:**  Brit. /pɒpˈtastɪk/ , U.S. /pɑpˈtæstɪk/

**Etymology:**  < [pop *n.8*](http://www.oed.com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/view/Entry/147789#eid29222515) + [-tastic *comb. form*](http://www.oed.com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/view/Entry/251544#eid11608916).

humorous.

### Designating or relating to a very good recording or performance of pop music. Also more generally: fantastic, excellent.

### Popularized by the British television programme Harry Enfield's Television Programme (1990–2), in which the term was used as a catchphrase of spoof radio disc jockeys ‘Smashie and Nicey’.

1992   [*Evening Standard*](javascript:void(0)) (Nexis) 3 Apr. 31   ‘Hi, it's Top of the Poptastic to be here. I'm quite literally Mike Smash,’ said the dyed blonde in the round-neck sweater. ‘And he's me old mate Dave Nice.’

1994   [*Daily Tel.*](javascript:void(0)) 18 Aug. 14/7   Some BBC2 art guru likes them so much that he has nicked their poptastic CD for himself.

1997   [*J-17*](javascript:void(0)) June 110/2   Britpop fans could hope for no better. Your heart will swell with patriotic pop-tastic pride.

2003   [*Gay Times*](javascript:void(0)) Feb. 100/1   Kelly Osbourne is the most poptastic popstar of the lot, bar none!

**Answer:** “Popularized by the British television programme Harry Enfield's Television Programme (1990–2), in which the term was used as a catchphrase of spoof radio disc jockeys ‘Smashie and Nicey’.

1. "What associations are headquartered in Dearborn, Michigan?"

**Questions:**

What types of Associations are you looking for? There are professional, business, religious and charitable Associations.

Is there more information that you would like about Dearborn, Michigan?

One resource I would use is Encyclopedia of Associations or Associations Unlimited. It is a comprehensive source that provides detailed information about associations. It includes founding information, member dues, meeting/ conferences dates, contact info, awards and much more. The online version allows advanced search options by location, subject, awards and more custom options. If unavailable, another alternative is [superpages.com](http://www.superpages.com). A search can be conducted through their search engine using this search string “associations Dearborn, Michigan.” A list pops up which can be narrowed by category, such as, religious or business.

**Answer:**

<http://yellowpages.superpages.com/listings.jsp?C=associations+&CS=L&MCBP=true&search=Find+It&SRC=&STYPE=S&SCS=&channelId=&sessionId=>

1. Where can I get a summary of divorce law in various US states?"

**Questions:**

What information would you like to find on this topic? Is there anything specific about divorce you are looking for?

Is this information sufficient enough for your needs?

Reading the jargon in codes and statues can be difficult to understand even for me! Do you need a legal dictionary to help clear up some of these terms?

I would provide a web source, because it is accessible from anywhere. Depending on the website legal information, links, forms, and sometimes legal assistance is available in one place. An alternative would be to use an encyclopedia of law to look up divorce laws by state. Encyclopedias often provide overview information on a given subject.

**Answer:** <http://family.findlaw.com/divorce/divorce-laws.html>

This website provides helpful law information. It is easy to navigate compared to other websites. This page specifically lists divorce laws by state. If more general information is required this page, <http://family.findlaw.com/divorce.html>, discusses and provides general information on divorce. It should also be advised that if further assistance is needed, consult a lawyer. Findlaw.com, provides a search engine to search for lawyers by state and need.

Ex. 3

1. "What are some useful commentaries for a layman interested in Bible study?"

Questions:

Are you looking for blogs, books are websites?

Are you looking for a particular format?

Recommendations:

A user could start in the *Encyclopedia of Religion* for general information that could lead to other resources within its citations. A user could do a search within a library catalog to find books and articles for biblical commentary. This would provide a list of available sources that a patron could check out. Given that some resources are available, such as, books, eBooks, articles and audio, a patron has a number of options going this route. Another option would to do a Google search for biblical commentary. This brings up a number of online sources a user could access from home.

The best recommendation is to use the library catalog. I used the SJSU Library Catalog and did subject searches for “bibl\*” and “commentar\*.” This brought up a significant amount of resources a user could chose from. There were articles, books, ebooks, audio and DVD’s. I think this could be the best route because most of these sources are reliable, whereas the internet might contain some unreliable information if consulted.

1. "After watching Breakfast at Tiffany's, I've decided to write a report on Audrey Hepburn for my class report. Where can I get some information about her life?

Questions:

How long dose the report have to be?

Would you like an extensive detailed look into her life or a quick summary?

What type of information do you need? Do you need information about her early life, personal life or just about her career?

Recommendations:

A user could use a bibliographic index or database to look up information about well-known individuals such as Audrey Hepburn. This information is highly reliable because it comes from paid subscriptions. Marquis Who’s who series and database is a well-established biographical resource that would contain accurate information. One problem with this is that it is a subscription based service that also requires users to purchase biographical bios if not subscribed. Another resource useful to a user would be to use websites. Users can find bios from biograpthy.com if they want general information about people’s lives. Another handy website is imbd.com which contains information about people in the film/movie industry. For more personal details about Audry’s life a library catalog would contain books about her life that would contain more details.

Depending on how long there report is, I would recommend biography.com, imbd.com and Marquis who’s who if there report is short. For longer reports they will need various books about her life from a library catalog.

1. "My friend Drew is always going on about how important he must be - he insists there are two hills named after him. Where exactly are these Drew's Hills located anyway? What are their geographic coordinates?"

Questions:

Do you happen to know which country or state they might be located in?

Recommendations:

A Gazette would be the source consulted because it lists the names of places and their locations. Since a user won’t know the location, a Gazette would provide this information. Using subscription or online gazettes would be recommended because a user can preform very quick searches. I would recommend Getty Thesaurus of Geographical Names Online <http://geonames.nga.mil/ggmaviewer/> and Geographical Names Information System <http://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/tgn> . They both provide search engines and have over 1 million locations to search.

Bases on the spelling of Drew’s Hill with or without an S, three search results come up.

**Drew’s Hill:**

From –Getty Thesaurus of Geographical Names Online

World, North and Central America, United States, New Hampshire, Belknap county)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | *Coordinates:* | | | Lat: 43 21 00 N  *degrees minutes* | Lat: 43.3500  *decimal degrees* | | Long: 071 10 00 W  *degrees minutes* | Long: -71.1667  *decimal degrees* | |  |  | | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |

**Drew Hill:**

From –Getty Thesaurus of Geographical Names Online

(World, North and Central America, United States, Maine, Aroostook county)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | *Coordinates:* | | | Lat: 46 05 00 N  *degrees minutes* | Lat: 46.0833  *decimal degrees* | | Long: 068 00 00 W  *degrees minutes* | Long: -68.0000  *decimal degrees* | | From: Geographical Names Information System   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Australia | South Australia | [32° 07' 01" S 140° 20' 53" E](http://geonames.nga.mil/ggmagaz/gnsquicksearch.asp) | |  | | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |

Ex. 4

1. "I'm looking for a printed copy of the final report the official commission wrote about 9-11. Considering I live in Bellingham, where can I take a look at it?"

Questions:

Is there more information on 9-11 that you need?

What types if information in the report are you looking for?

Sources: An online version is available through the U.S Government Printing Office at <http://catalog.gpo.gov/>. For access to a print version a patron would need to go to a Federal Depository library. These libraries receive printed materials from the Government Printing Office. To find a location near the patron I need to look here <http://catalog.gpo.gov/fdlpdir/FDLPdir.jsp> .

Answer: Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington contains a printed version of the report the patron is looking for. Looking through their catalog, there is a record for a printed and electronic version.

1. "How much did the federal government spend on national defence in 1942?

Questions:

Is there more information about the national defense that you need?

Sources: Databases would be the best source of information, since a lot of U.S publications are available in digital formats. It is a lot easier to type in a search string, then look through books and documents in print. My recommendation would be to look for a database/index that contains statistical and economical information. The Federal Reserve Archive System for Economic Research at <http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/> would be a great starting point since they hold historical economical information. Typing a search string of Budget 1942 brings me to the Budget of 1942, 1943 and 1944. Here is the budget for 1942 <http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/docs/publications/usbudget/bus_1942.pdf> . I think there is a good chance that spending on national defense would be in this document.

1. "Can you find me a list of Standing Committees of the Senate and their members?"

Questions:

Is there a specific committee you are looking for?

Do you need contact information or general information about the committee?

Sources: All government agencies typically have a website, so this type of information would be available on a number of government websites. <http://www.Senate.gov> would be a great resource for this type of information. The website contains a list of standing committees. There is a membership tab <http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/committees/b_three_sections_with_teasers/membership.htm> that provides dropdown menus of committees that contain a list of membership and website links for each committee