

Module 5: Checking Your Facts Activities

Question 1: “90% of people don’t know about Control-F.” Which of these queries is the most efficient way to help you confirm or refute that fact?

- 1) [90 percent know Control-F]
- 2) [90 Control-F]
- 3) [know Control-F]
- 4) [number of people who know Control-F]

Answer: 3 - This is the most efficient way to verify the fact. You are using a generic description of what you seek.

Question 2: Which of the following searches would be most efficient to locate the original source of the data point that 90% of people don’t know Control-F?

- 1) [90 percent know Control-F]
- 2) [90 Control-F]
- 3) [know Control-F]
- 4) [number of people who know Control-F]

Answer: 2 - When you need to know where a piece of data comes from, you should pick out the terms that you know will appear consistently in every source that talks about your subject. I know that the number 90 will appear in all reports on this study, and I know that Control-F will, as well. Beyond that, I cannot be certain of any terms appearing in all pages talking about the study. I can always add more words later if I get too many irrelevant results.

Question 3: You read an article that says:

A recent study argued that college students should be paid for playing sports. It calculated that a typical basketball player is worth over \$265,000 to his or her alma mater, while a college football player has a value of over \$120,000.

Open a new tab so you can search. What is the title of the original study on which this article is based?

Answer: Our search expert says: The report is called 'The Price of Poverty in Big Time College Sport'. This is an example of a time you are trying to locate the source from which the information in the article came. To do so, you want to take very specific, identifiable pieces from the article and look for other pages that match. For example, a query such as [study basketball player \$265,000], [college football player \$120,000], or even [college player \$265,000 \$120,000] will uniquely identify the source you want to find.

Question 4: WHOIS lookups are not something we anticipate you'll use often, but they can be helpful.

Different WHOIS directories post different information, and they can be challenging to read, so use this question to practice.

Open a new window and use the Web to answer this question. For this exercise, go to <http://www.internic.net/whois.html> or a different directory of your choice.

What do you see listed as the name server (sometimes called the domain server) for Splenda.com?

- 1) bnb.com
- 2) jnj.com
- 3) whois.networksolutions.com
- 4) splenda.com

Answer: 2 - jnj.com is listed as the name server for splenda.com, which means that jnj.com owns splenda.com.