

**Online Supplemental Materials #1  
PILS Response Scale**

(1) **Novice:** A novice information user is:

- Beginning to understand search
- Relying on general search tools (such as Google)
- Somewhat comfortable with basic search techniques (keyword searching)
- Unsure how to expand or refine results
- A passive member of their discipline
- Unfamiliar with the citation style of the discipline
- Unsure how to use existing information to create new information

(2) **Advanced Novice**

(3) **Emerging:** An emerging information user is:

- Beginning to understand the power of information as a tool and a commodity
- Using the basic functions of discipline-specific information retrieval tools, without or only a little understanding of the concepts that these tools are built on
- A passive member of the scholarly conversation of their field, but are interested in become an active member
- Using information legally and ethically, but occasionally plagiarizes unintentionally because of poor citation or paraphrasing skills
- Experiencing some anxiety around citations and using the ideas of others to build their own argument
- Using information without context and considering overall value-added

(4) **Advanced Emerging**

(5) **Developing:** A developing information user is:

- Using information skills comfortably and with frequency
- Using a range of tools to search out information, though they may be less likely to seek out new tools
- Expanding and narrowing their search results using an understanding of search tool concepts
- An active creator of information and contributor to their field, but may feel some anxiety or discomfort as they grow in this role
- Able to use information ethically and legally
- Developing the ability to synthesize multiple sources and perspectives into a new information product

(6) **Advanced Developing**

(7) **Expert:** An expert information user is:

- An experienced and confident researcher
- Using the advanced functions of discipline-specific, multidisciplinary, and interdisciplinary tools to find information
- Using a strong understanding of the concepts that search tools are built on
- A contributor to the scholarly conversation of their field
- An ethical and legal information user
- Managing their rights as information creators
- Evaluating information within its context and in its relationship with other information resources

(1) **Novice:** A novice information user is just beginning to understand and use the language of search and research. They rely on easy-to-use and general research tools, with only some effort to find tools that are discipline-specific. They may be comfortable with basic search techniques, such as keyword searching, but are unsure how to use more complex techniques to expand or define their search. They view themselves as a passive member of the scholarly conversation of their field. They may unintentionally plagiarize because they are unaware of how to use the information of others appropriately in creating their own information products. Information is considered to exist within a vacuum, and without context.

(2) **Advanced Novice**

(3) **Emerging:** An emerging information user is beginning to understand the power of information as a tool and a commodity. They use the basic functions of discipline-specific information retrieval tools, without or only a little understanding of the concepts that these tools are built on. They view themselves as a passive member of the scholarly conversation of their field, but are interested in become an active member. They generally use information legally and ethically, but occasionally plagiarize unintentionally because of poor citation or paraphrasing skills, and may experience some anxiety around citations and using the ideas of others to build their own argument. Information evaluation may be approached as a criterion-based practice, rather than for context and overall value-added.

(4) **Advanced Emerging**

(5) **Developing:** A developed information user has established information skills that they use comfortably and with frequency. They use a range of tools to search out information, though they may be less likely to seek out new tools. They also use a variety of tools to expand or narrow their search results, and have some understanding of the concepts that these tools are built on. They consider themselves an active creator of information and contributor to their field, but may feel some anxiety or discomfort as they assume and grow in this role. They are able to use information ethically and legally, and are developing the ability to synthesize multiple sources and perspectives into a new information product.

(6) **Advanced Developing**

**Expert:** An expert information user is an experienced and confident researcher. They use the advanced functions of discipline-specific, multidisciplinary, and interdisciplinary tools to find information, and have a strong understanding of the concepts that these tools are built on. They view themselves as a contributor to the scholarly conversation of their field. They understand the ethical and legal information economy, and can understand and negotiate their rights as information creators. Information is evaluated within its context and in its relationship with other information resources.