

IMLS Interview Protocol 2023-04

Interview Questions

1. What is it that you currently do in regards to the [SCIENTIFIC/TECHNICAL TOPIC]? If this is part of your professional career, what is that career? If not, what is your profession?
2. I would like you to recall a specific incident where you were gathering information on the [SCIENTIFIC/TECHNICAL TOPIC].
 - a. [Prompt to recall/describe]
 - b. For what purpose were you gathering this information?
 - c. Tell me a little bit about what this process looks like for you. [Have them tell you how they go through this process from start to finish]
 - i. Can you talk about what that experience was like?
 - ii. Describe to me how you went about finding that information.
3. What types of information did you look for? (primary/secondary/tertiary sources, scientific articles, experiential stories, statistics)
 - a. How did you decide which type of information would be most beneficial for your needs?
 - b. How did you distinguish between the different types of information?
 - i. How did you handle scientific disputes? How do you know who to believe or what is credible?
 - ii. Was there anything you didn't find credible? Why? How did you know it wasn't credible?
4. How did you decide what information is relevant versus irrelevant? (i.e., How did you decide which information is usable?)
 - a. What did you specifically look for?
5. How did you know a source was credible? What indicates that to you? How did you know?
 - a. Did you fact check or cross reference this information?
 - b. How did you do this?
6. What information did you encounter that is misleading or false?
 - a. Why do you think people share or believe this information?
 - b. Have you ever been able to change someone's mind about false information? How?
7. What was the most challenging part of this process? What was the easiest?
 - a. Did you ever get stuck?
 - b. How did you handle that?
 - c. What helped you get unstuck?
8. Did you seek assistance and/or collaborate with others? If so, what did that process look like?
 - a. How did you decide who you would [collaborate with/get assistance] from?
 - b. How did you get in contact with them? How did you know to contact them?
 - c. Is this normal procedure or did you need their help specifically for this project?
 - d. Are there resources or support you could have used if you had needed it?
9. How did you see your role in spreading information? How did you see yourself?

[Moving more generally]

10. People come from many different fields which each have their own way of training, what kind of training have you received? Or did you train yourself? If so, how?
 - a. Is the scientific process important in your field or for your work?
 - b. Did you ever receive scientific training? Or training on the scientific method?
11. Can you tell me about your previous experiences with sharing this type of information? Before this time, had you researched this type of information before?
 - a. In what context?
 - b. How was it similar or different from the time we have been talking about thus far?
12. How often are you searching for information like this? How were you made aware of where to get support from? Does this differ based on the project?
13. Who is your typical audience? Who did you try to reach?
14. Are particular formats or media of information more relevant for you? (i.e. TV news networks, social media, radio, podcasts, Wikipedia, Google, academic articles)
15. What is something you've encountered in this process that you don't think that people are talking about?
16. Thank you! Those are all the formal questions I have. Is there anything else you might like to reflect on or share? Maybe something else you've thought of as we've been talking? Anything else I should know?

Conclusion:

Thank you so much for speaking with me today. If you have any questions about the study, please contact Dr. Jodi Schneider at jodi@illinois.edu