Using Citation Tetris with Students

Citation Tetris – part of Sort Tetris: http://sort-tetris.com

Citation Tetris is a tool for testing a user's ability to quickly identify a cited item as being a book, book chapter, or magazine/journal article. This recognition skill is an important link in the discovery process:

1. Identify a citation of interest
2. Recognize the type of citation (book, chapter, article)
3. Based on the type of citation, choose an appropriate lookup tool
4. Search based on an appropriate part of the citation

When working with students on this task (so far, mostly with Reference student workers), here's what I do (not usually all on the same day):

1. Introduce students to the local catalog, OhioLINK catalog, and Full Text Finder (or other journal A-Z list)
2. Discuss different types of citations; see how citation information varies in library catalogs vs. article databases.
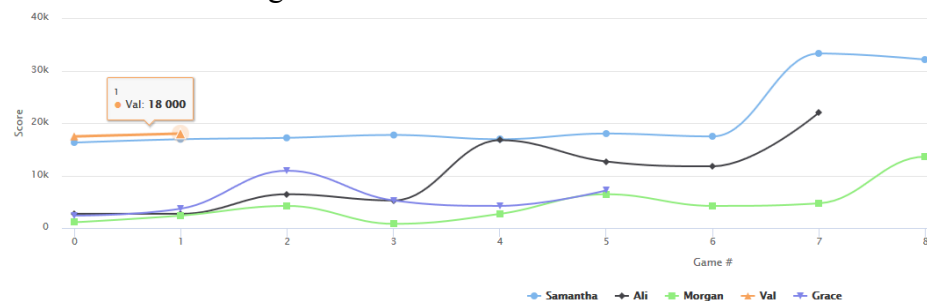
   Some key identifying features:

Includes publisher info	**Book**	
Includes publisher info	**Book Chapter**	Includes page numbers
	Article	Includes page numbers

3. Have students work on their own to identify several citations by type – see the worksheet on the reverse side of this handout.

4. Go over the completed worksheet with them and have them show you how to find the items (get to the full text or find the book in your local or consortial catalog).

5. Having introduced the concepts, now it's Citation Tetris time! Playing the game will improve their recognition. Have them log in under your institutional affiliation and submit their scores so you'll be able to track their progress without standing over their shoulders.

 Note: to monitor your students' progress, you'll need to register as a supervisor before they work with Citation Tetris. This will add your institution to the list of institutions they can log in under. To register: http://www.sort-tetris.com/play/supervisor/register.php
You'll see something like this:

Examples of different types of citations

For each of these citations, is the cited item a Book, Book Chapter, or Article?

1. Erdrich, Louise. *Love Medicine*. 1984. New York: Perennial-Harper, 1993. Print.

   Book   Book Chapter   Article

2. Gruber, J. (2011a), "The Impacts Of The Affordable Care Act: How Reasonable Are The Projections the Impacts Of The Affordable Care Act: How Reasonable Are The Projections?", *National Tax Journal*, Vol. 64 No. 3, pp. 893-908.

   Book   Book Chapter   Article

3. Johansson, E. "Children's morality: perspectives and research." In B. Spodek & O. N. Saracho (Eds.) *Handbook of research on the education of young children* (pp. 55-84). Mahwah, N.J.: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

   Book   Book Chapter   Article

4. Meyers G, Rumenapf T, Thiel HJ. Molecular cloning and nucleotide sequence of the genome of hog cholera virus. *Virology*. 1989;171:555-67.

   Book   Book Chapter   Article

5. Laplace, P. S. (1951). *A philosophical essay on probabilities*. (F. W. Truscott & F. L. Emory, Trans.). New York, NY: Dover.

   Book   Book Chapter   Article

6. Stenger, V. J. (2007). Physics, cosmology, and the new creationism. In Petto, A. J. & Godfrey L. R. (Eds.) *Scientists confront intelligent design and creationism* (pp. 131-149). New York: Norton.

   Book   Book Chapter   Article