

Online search at a student chemistry olympiad

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Two olympiads for chemistry students of Belarusian universities were held at the Chemistry Department of the Belarusian State University during the 2010/11 academic year. The novelty of the olympiad programs was in the special five-hour experimental rounds of online information retrieval. At that stage of the contest, competitors were tested both on their search skills and on the ability to interpret data. The sets of problems consisted of single- and multistep tasks on text search in databases of various types. The right solution required formulating the optimal query, choosing the appropriate instrument and the Web resource, examining the relevance of the retrieved documents, analyzing the content, and revealing meaningful information.