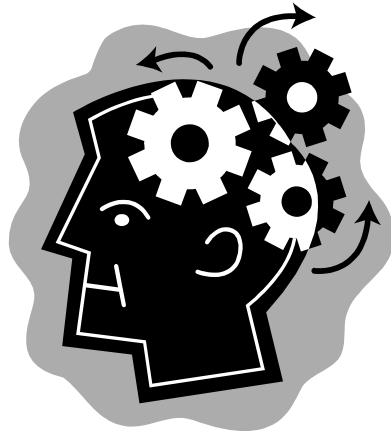


# CHECKING OUT THE COMPETITION

## Google Answers



Now let's take a look at question-answering services that are not run by libraries and are not free! An article in the Christian Science Monitor (July 22, 2002) titled [Paying for Answers Online](#) profiles various Web-based question-answering services.



Go to [Google Answers](#). Read the [Answers FAQ](#). Note the qualifications for Google Answers Researchers, the pricing structure, privacy policy, etc.

Go back to the main page for [Google Answers](#). Search for a question on whether string beans are kosher in the “Answered Questions” category. Read through the answers. Note the sources used to answer the question and the variety of comments posted.

Click on [Google Answers Terms of Service](#) to see the various disclaimers, limits on liability, etc.

Then go to the Google Answers [Researcher Training Manual](#) for a look at the service expectations. The sample questions and answers are well worth reading. Note the emphasis on providing the search strategy used in finding answers.

Read Tara Calishain's [article](#) on Google Answers in the June 2002 issue of *Information Today*.

Look at Jessamyn West's [article](#), "Information for Sale: My Experience with Google Answers" in the October 2002 issue of *Searcher* magazine.