1. "The strategic planning process provides a basis for the identification of the resources and skills that are needed at each stage of the Web page planning and development process. The following resources may be needed at any or all stages of the process, depending on the nature of the Web site: personnel/skills, time, money, facilities, software tools, and equipment. Of these, the most important is personnel/skills." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Provide a rationale for your position.

I agree that personnel and skills are the most important resources on any Web-based project; that would include the planner, which the author does not appear to have the skills for. I suppose we should take into consideration that the document was written in 2000 and a lot has changed in Web development since then, but for a document on planning a Web site for a library it was certainly lacking in essential detail. All Web sites of this size are built on four layers, structural, interactive, business logic, and database. Most of the article focuses on the structural and barely touches on the interactive, business logic, and completely ignores the database component. A good planner would need to have a good understanding of the technologies that operate at each of these four layers and the ability to make a needs comparison of each of them in order to create a plan that will accomplish the goals of the Web site. The alternative would be that the planner has the appropriate personnel who are skilled enough in each of these areas to make the proper recommendation. When you think about it, this actually is common practice; a person who has very little knowledge of what they are doing leading a team of experts to complete a project. That's where the terms "middle management" and "bureaucracy" come from.

2. Secondly, based on the list mentioned throughout the article (identification of user needs;. selection and evaluation of information;. organisation of information;. currency of information;. copyright/intellectual property issues;. personal privacy;. monitoring future developments), which stage would you rank as the highest priority when designing a website? Provide a rationale for your position.

User needs would have the highest priority on my list. If a Web site doesn't meet the needs of its users, then no one will use it regardless of whether any of the other objectives are met.