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# Reliable Sources for Research Writing

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# The Easiest Way is not the Best Way

Do not use the top Google search results:

- ❖ Yahoo Answers
- ❖ Ask.com
- ❖ Wiki Answers
- ❖ Web MD

Be careful when using Wikipedia!

The logo for WikiAnswers, featuring the word "Wiki" in green and "Answers" in blue, tilted upwards to the right.The multi-colored Google logo in its standard font.The logo for WebMD, with "Web" in blue and "MD" in black, tilted upwards to the right.

# Evaluating a Website Checklist

- ❖ **Credibility**
- ❖ **Accuracy**
- ❖ **Bias**
- ❖ **Relevance**



# Credibility

- ❖ **Is the author stated?**
- ❖ **What are the author's credentials?**
- ❖ **Can they be trusted?**
- ❖ **Is it peer reviewed?**
- ❖ **Is it from a credible institution?**



# Accuracy

- ❖ **Does the website provide accurate information?**
- ❖ **Is there clear proof and research to back up the information?**
- ❖ **Are there any citations?**
- ❖ **Do any other websites have the same facts?**



# Bias

- ❖ **Is the author trying to steer you in a certain direction?**
- ❖ **Is their argument and research only showing one side of an issue?**
- ❖ **Is there more commentary than fact?**



# Relevance

- ❖ **How recent is the information?**
- ❖ **Does the information really add to your paper?**
- ❖ **Does the information support your research?**

# True or false?

**It is okay to cite  
Wikipedia in your  
scholarly essays.**

# Websites to be cautious of...



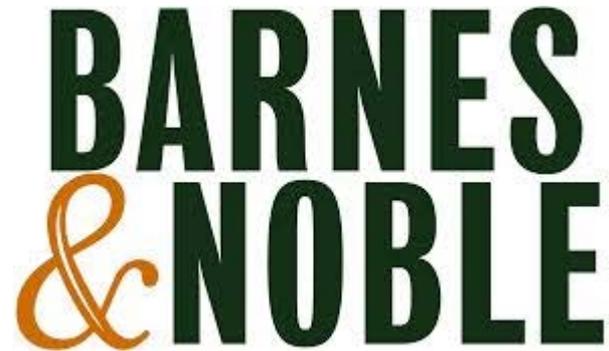
# Advocacy Websites

- ❖ **Promote policies, actions, and campaigns**
- ❖ **Often can be biased**
- ❖ **URLs end in .org**
- ❖ **Non-profit websites**



# Commercial Websites

- ❖ Owned by a business or corporation
- ❖ Purpose is to sell goods and services
- ❖ URLs end in .com



# Blogs and Personal Websites

- ❖ **Can have information on everything and anything**
- ❖ **Can often be very opinionated**
- ❖ **Every blog will be different.**
- ❖ **These websites are only as credible as their author!**

# Satirical Websites

- ❖ “News” sites
- ❖ Sometimes have believable headlines
- ❖ Examples: [www.theonion.com](http://www.theonion.com), <http://dailycurrant.com>

## Researchers Announce They Don't Have Heart To Reveal What Will Happen To 1 In 5 Women

NEWS IN BRIEF

February 3, 2016

VOL. 52 ISSUE 04

News - Science - Women



MOST POPULAR

SEE ALL

1 Wade Phillips Wondering Why Big Egg On Top Of Lombardi Trophy

Politics

## Man Awoken From 27-Year Coma Commits Suicide After Learning Donald Trump Leads Presidential Race

Jan 18, 2016

Facebook

Twitter



A man who miraculously woke up from a 27-year coma last week has committed suicide after learning that real estate billionaire Donald Trump leads the 2016 presidential race.

Nicholas Vedder, 56, had been in a coma since 1988 following an automobile accident in his hometown of Albany, NY.



**So what are the  
best websites to  
use?**



# Scholarly Websites



- ❖ **Have the most detail**
- ❖ **Includes online databases, journals, and articles**
- ❖ **Show extensive research**
- ❖ **Have documentation of resources**
- ❖ **URLs end in .edu, .gov, and sometimes .org**

# Assessing Scholarly Websites and Articles

- ❖ **Studies use “n = #” to show how many people participated in study.**
- ❖ **The larger the number, the better the information is.**



## What are examples of websites to never cite?

Wikipedia ask.com Yahoo Answers  
petco.com modcloth.com

## Which should be used with caution?

peta.org aspca.org change.org  
wordpress.com

## What are examples of good websites to use?

Fws.gov habitat.noaa.gov schoolcraft.edu

# Search Tips & Tricks

- ❖ **“Add quotes around a group of words in a search engine.”**

Results will only show the exact phrase.

- ❖ **PDF: Domesticated animals**

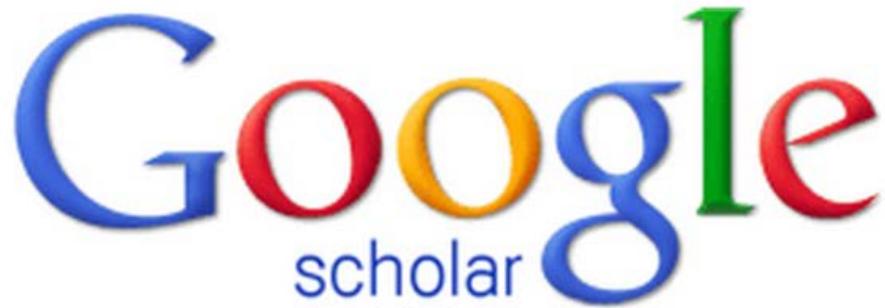
If you type the file type: before your search, the results will only show that type of file.

- ❖ **Saving to your library (Google Scholar)**

Click “save” underneath an article’s link to easily access it later.

- ❖ **Change the range**

Type the year or move the slider to limit your searches to the date of publication.



[scholar.google.com](https://scholar.google.com)

- ❖ **Will not give you the top google search results**
- ❖ **Has peer reviewed and non-peer reviewed sources**
- ❖ **Shows how many people have cited a source**
- ❖ **Shows related articles and websites**
- ❖ **Will cite your work for you**
- ❖ **You can save your searches if you are using a Google account**



## How to sign-up

1. Log into WebAdvisor
2. Go to the student menu under resources
3. Click on NBC Learn and follow directions to sign up

- ❖ **Thousands of video clips**
- ❖ **40 different subjects**
- ❖ **Transcripts**
- ❖ **A different kind of reference**

# Ebsco Discovery Service

Resources → Library → Magazines & Journals

- ❖ Peer reviewed articles
- ❖ Extensive research
- ❖ Customizable searches
- ❖ Free, full text, and journals



# Schoolcraft as a resource

**Username: schoolcr33**

**Password: bradkliff**



**Ask a librarian if you have questions or need help! They are experts!**

# Works Cited

Cronin, Brittany. "Using Google Scholar Effectively." *SDSU Library & Information Access*. San Diego State University, 2015.

Marie, Laura. "Credible Versus Non Credible Sources." *University Writing Center*. Appalachian State University, Mar. 2013.

Truslow, Hugh. "Browsing Search Results." *Harvard Library*. Harvard University, 25 Feb. 2008.