
Reliable Sources for Research Writing

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!

WikiAnswers

Google

WebMDSM

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://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

- ❖ **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.