Finding Reputable Sources On the Web

6 Quick Tips

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References & Resources
Examine the Following :-

1. Currency - How current, relevant and accurate, is the information?

- Examine the publication dates, website update details, report and project dates- how recent
2. Reliability- Does the author or organization relate to other scholars and organizations?

- Is this information supported in other articles, documents or by other organizations and other researchers or authors?
- Does the article give references to other relevant scholarly articles or documents or does the organization provide links or show any relationship to other reputable organizations?
- Does the article provide a bibliography?
- Try to identify where the information originated. What primary or secondary sources were used, and see if the information can be verified in other sources or with source data.
- Is there any indication on how the data was gathered?

3. Authority - Are the authors qualified for the subject on which they are writing?

- Examine author's website, qualifications and professional associations.
- Do they have research experience, degrees, or just an interest in the subject?

4. Purpose-Who is the information prepared for?

- Is the author writing to scholars, researchers, professionals or students - Scholarly article.
- Is the author writing for the general public or hobbyists- popular articles.
- Take a look at the mission statement and goals of the organization. Does the Organization or
author have a bias? Are they trying to sell you something or solicit your support? Is it opinion or fact?

- Is the author, editor or organization funded or supported by other reputable organizations or institutions? Sometimes funding and affiliations influence the interpretation of data and reports. This does not mean that the information is not useful but it may be bias, and understanding that bias in your interpretation and application of the information is necessary in these situations. Pay attention to associations, publishers, founders and sponsors, directors and the boards of organizations.

*Use the following Domain Tools if you are having difficulty finding out who sponsors the site or is affiliated with the organization.*

- **Domain Tools**
- http://www.domaintools.com
- **Wayback Machine:**
- **ALEXA**- find all the sites that link to the site.
- **Hoovers**- company information
- http://www.hoovers.com

**Other Tools for Evaluating your Sources**

University of Oregon-Critical Evaluation of Information Sources
http://library.uoregon.edu/guides/findarticles/credibility.html

Virginia Tech-Evaluating Webpages for Research
http://www.lib.vt.edu/instruct/evaluate/

UC Berkely- Evaluating Web Pages - Techniques to Apply and Questions to Ask
http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Evaluate.html
Any material produced by a government entity.

**Types of Documents:**

1. Special Reports - reports produced periodically on special projects or issues.
2. Annual Reports
3. Data Reports
4. Congressional Reports
5. Policy Briefs
6. Case Studies
7. Papers
8. Census Data and Reports
9. Statistical Publications
10. Handbooks and Manuals
11. Budgets
12. Hearings
13. Statutes
14. Laws
15. Bills
16. Codes

**How to Find:**

1. Search Government and Agency Websites:

   - **National Archives- Archives Library Information Center (ALIC)**
     
     
     Links to government publications in the National Archives.

   - **U.S Government Printing Office (GPO)**
     
     Provides publishing and dissemination services for the official and authentic government publications to Congress, Federal agencies, Federal depository libraries, and the American public.
National Technical Information Services  
http://www.ntis.gov  
Provides information dissemination of its collection of approximately 3 million U.S. Federal Government technical reports and provides dissemination services for other U.S. Federal Government agencies.

Catalog of US Government Publications  
http://catalog.gpo.gov/F  
Search tool for federal publications that include descriptive records for historical and current publications and provides direct links to those that are available online.

United States House of Representatives  
http://www.house.gov  
Select > 'COMMITTEES' and then search each individual committee's site for their documents and proceedings.

United States Senate  
http://www.senate.gov  
Select > 'COMMITTEES' and then search each individual committee's site for their documents and proceedings. Also select > "LEGISLATION AND RECORDS'.

'Thomas' - Library of Congress  
http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.php  
Provides free accesss to Federal Legislative Information.

2. Search Libguides and Indexes:-

University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) is a designated Federal Depository Library. Documents are located at various locations throughout all of our libraries. See this location codes list to find where your documents are located.

Government Documents-University of Nebraska  
http://libraries.unl.edu/govdocs

http://library.columbia.edu/indiv/usgd/guides.html

Government Documents Portal-Princeton LibGuides  
http://libguides.princeton.edu/usgovdocs
NGO's & IGO's

Non-Governmental Organizations and Inter-Governmental Organizations are organizations that are not a part of government. They are usually non-profit and may receive part or all of their funding from private sources. Their goals are usually non-commercial and they advocate on social, environmental, religious, cultural or legal issues.

Types of Documents:-

1. Special Reports
2. Annual Reports
3. Policy Briefs
4. Data Reports
5. Case Studies
6. Conference Proceedings

How to Find:-

Internet Directory of NGO's and Other Organizations.

Integrated Civil Society Organizations System
http://esango.un.org/civilsociety/login.do
Database managed by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

United Nations Office on Drug and Crime NOG Directory:
http://www.unodc.org/ngo/list.jsp
Database managed by the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime

Registry of Civil Society Organizations within the Organization of American States
http://www.civil-society.oas.org/Pages/Registry_ENG.htm
Registry of civil society organizations approved by the Permanent Council for participation in OAS activities.
WANGO. World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations- Database
*Database of Non-Government Organizations who are supporters of the Code of Ethics and Conduct for NGO's.*

WWW Virtual Library- International Affairs Resources
http://www2.etown.edu/vl/ngos.html
*Directory of over 2000 links to Non-Governmental Organizations on the WWW*

Union of International Associations Database
http://www.uia.be/s/or/en/igo
*Searches the websites of all inter-governmental organizations (IGOs), comprising over 3000 bodies including the United Nations, the European Commission, the World Bank, and other NGO's.*

**Research Guides**

*Getting Started: Non Government Organizations (NGO) Guide. Duke University Libraries*
http://guides.library.duke.edu/ngo_guide

http://www.asil.org/erg/?page=io

*University of California Berkeley- Non-Governmental Organizations Research Guide*
http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/doemoff/govinfo/intl/gov_ngos.html

**Online and Print Directories**

*Directory of Development Organizations*
http://www.devdir.org
*Print PDF available for download.*
http://www.publichealth.uga.edu/cgh/sites/default/files/USA.pdf
Open Source Sites

Sites that offer free redistribution and access to documents, data and other files.

Types of Files & Documents:-

- Journals
- E-Books
- Digital scans of books and documents in the Public Domain
- Software
- Databases
- Data Sets

Evaluate

The Organization and website using the criteria on page 1.

How to Find:-

University Institutional Repository Sites.

Search the digital repositories of individual universities. These repositories provide access to the scholarly work created by the university faculty.

Digital Commons @ University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Bepress
http://www.bepress.com
Search the Digital Commons of over 100 institutions

Scholarly Publishers

Oxford Journals
Document/Data Repositories

**ArXiv.org.**
http://arxiv.org
Sciences

**PLOS**
http://www.plos.org
Biological and Medical Research

**OpenDOAR**
http://www.opendoar.org
A directory of academic open access repositories.

Databases and Catalogs

**PubMed**
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/
Biomedical and Life Science archives at the Institute of Health's National Library of Medicine

**Free Medical Journals**
http://www.freemedicaljournals.com

**Genamics Journalseek**
http://journalseek.net
Database of Open Access Journals

**Oister**
http://oaister.worldcat.org

**Science-Creative Commons**
http://creativecommons.org/science
Directory of Science Open Access Repositories.

Open Access Education Sites

**Connexions**
Directories & Lists

Directory of Open Access Journals
http://www.doaj.org

E-Journals.org
http://www.e-journals.org

Directory of Major Open Access Collections on the Web- Punjab University Library
http://www.pulibrary.edu.pk/resources/fsj.htm

Use Beall's List to Check the publishers.

Beall's List
http://scholarlyoa.com/publishers/
Valuable list of questionable, scholarly open access publishers. Also provides criteria for determining predatory publishers.

Research Guides

Open Science by Kyiomi Deards
http://unl.libguides.com/openscience
A guide to freely available science software, data discoverability and preservation resources, and publicly accessible publishing in science.

Digital Libraries

Digital Public Library of America
http://dp.la
Academic Alternative to Google Books to be launched in April 2013. Search >"About" >"Digital Hubs Pilot" to find Digital libraries that are currently accessible.

Library of Congress Digital Collections

New York Public Library Digital Gallery
http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital/index.cfm
Take a look at Digital Collections housed at specific Universities:-

- The Harvard Library
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln Image and Multimedia Collections
- University of South Carolina Digital Collections
- Duke University Digital Collections
Search the websites of the professional organizations in your subject area or field.

**Types of Documents:**

- Conference Proceedings
- Journals
- Reports
- Guidelines
- Special Reports
- Standards

The Organization using the criteria on page 1.

**How to Find:**

1. Examine the websites of the professional organizations that you already know, follow their links and the organizations that they are associated with.

2. Look at any relevant journal articles that you have read, look for author and publisher associations and search the related websites.

3. Use the databases below to find some other professional organizations and associations.

**Search Databases**

*Weddle's Association Directory*
http://www.weddles.com/associations/
E-Books And Other Documents

Look at the websites of individual academic journal publishers. Some publishers offer free access to specific journal articles for a set period of time.

Types of Documents

- E-books
- Diaries
- Songs
- Interviews
- Posters

The Organization using the criteria on page 1.

How to Find:

Publishers

**IBM Redbooks**
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com
*Developed and Published by the IBM International Technical Support Organization (ITSO)*

**Reference Library InformIT**
*Pearson Publishers. Computer Library and Reference Guides that are primers on Java, C++ and other computer topics.*

**National Academic Press**
http://www.nap.edu
*Books are available for free reading online. Some books are available in free PDF format.*

Online Digital Catalogs
Project Gutenberg
E-Pub and Kindle formats of books in the Public Domain in the USA.

Smithsonian Digital Library
http://www.sil.si.edu/DigitalLibrary.cfm
Contains digital editions, bibliographies, fact sheets, and finding aids for their collections.

Internet History Source Books
http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/index.asp
A collection of public domain and copy-permitted historical texts.

Documenting the American South
http://docsouth.unc.edu
Currently DocSouth includes sixteen thematic collections of books, diaries, posters, artifacts, letters, oral history interviews, and songs related to Southern history, literature and culture.

The Getty Research Institutes Electronic Publications
Publications that promote best practices for managing information in libraries, archives and museums. Free online reading.

Research Guides

University of Nebraska E-books Libguide
http://unl.libguides.com/ebooks
Guide provides a list of Free eBook Resources.
Use the Google Scholar search engine to search for scholarly literature that is available on the Internet.

**How to Search**

Go to Google Scholar at scholar.google.com/

**Simple Search**

*Search for your information.*

- Narrow your search using the aids to the left of your screen and access your documents using the links to the right of the screen.

**Advanced Search**

*Search only for documents with UNL access.*

- Select Settings in the top right corner of the screen.
- Select "Library links" from the left menu.
- Type in 'University of Nebraska' in the search box, and then select > 'University of Nebraska- Full text @ UNL'
- Search for and select any other University or catalog that you may have access to. Include 'Open WorldCat' in your selection.

Narrow your search by using the limiting options provided in the left sidebar.

- "Since Year" to show only recently published papers
- "Sort by date" to show just the new additions sorted by date.
- "Create Alert" to have new results e-mailed to you as they become available.
- "Related Articles" or "Cited by" to find other relevant articles if you do not have access to the articles you have previously found.
1. Zillman, Marcus. Academic and Scholar Search Engines and Sources: an Internet mini-guide and Annotated link compilation.
   http://www.whitepapers.us

2. Marcial, Laura Haak; Hemminger, Bradley M. Scientific data repositories on the Web: An initial survey.

3. Homeland Security Digital Library
   https://www.hsdl.org/?commercial
   This page is presented as courtesy to help you locate current and scholarly book and journal information from various library catalogs, book vendors and major publishers.

4. Directory of Major Open Access Collections on the Web
   http://www.pulibrary.edu.pk/resources/fsj.htm

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