

## Research Paper Resources

	<b>Reference Books</b>	<b>Books</b>	<b>Library Databases</b>	<b>Search Engines</b>	<b>Subject Directories</b>
<b>Contents</b>	<b>Background info</b> , topic overviews, bibliographies	<b>In-depth information</b> on a topic, bibliographies	Journal, Magazine, and Newspaper <b>articles</b>	Websites on practically any topic. Majority are commercial	Organized by subjects. Some are limited by domain (.edu, .gov)
<b>Location</b>	Reference Room, 1st Floor  <b>UD Catalog</b> – Try a Keywords search for “ <i>your topic</i> and encyclopedia”	UD Library Catalog flyers.udayton.edu  OR  OhioLINK Catalog - olc1.ohiolink.edu/search/	160+ databases available at library.udayton.edu Click on <b>Databases</b>  Choose <b>Databases</b> <b>by Subject</b>	www.google.com www.yahoo.com www.altavista.com www.aol.com www.msn.com www.alltheweb.com	Librarians’ Index to Internet www.lii.org  Internet Public Library www.ipl.org  SearchEdu www.searchedu.com  USA.Gov www.usa.gov
<b>Scholarly?</b>	Yes. Articles are reviewed & edited	Yes. Most books are reviewed & edited	Mostly. Many, but not all journal articles have been through a peer review process	No. Not reviewed or edited, anyone can add a website, no guarantee of quality. Most websites want to sell things	More reliable. Websites chosen and organized by professionals and librarians and reviewed for content & accuracy.
<b>When to use?</b>	For an overview of your topic	For information on a topic or for an overview	For current information on a topic	For current news or information, quick facts, and personal enjoyment	For reliable information when you prefer to use the web
<b>How current is the material?</b>	At least 6 months – 2 years old	At least 6 months – 2 years old	At least 1-12 months old	Hard to tell, check for “page last updated”	Hard to tell, check for “page last updated”

## Evaluation of Information Sources

These criteria can be used to evaluate books, periodicals, and internet sites.

	<b>Scholarly Sources</b>	<b>Popular Sources</b>
<b>Audience</b>	Experts and students in the discipline	General readership with minimum background knowledge
<b>Availability</b>	Specialized databases and academic libraries	Most often found in public libraries
<b>Authors</b>	Scholars or researchers in the field (check credentials)	Professional writers or journalists
<b>Sources</b>	Formal footnotes, endnotes, or bibliographies	No formal citations
<b>Content</b>	Evidence based & supported by documentation In-depth coverage of research	Objectivity or authority usually not an issue Little depth
<b>Language</b>	Language of the discipline	Geared to general audience
<b>Review process</b>	Editorial board or group of peers for journals	No review process
<b>Appearance</b>	Generally sober, serious look	Often slick and attractive
<b>Illustrations, graphics, ads</b>	Usually charts and graphs Few if any ads (journals)	Many color photographs Many ads (magazines)
<b>Currency</b>	Usually takes more than a year to be published after event	Often published within days, weeks, or months after event
<b>Examples</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Encyclopedia of American Military History</u></li> <li>• <i>Asian Journal of Social Psychology</i></li> <li>• <u>Vietnam and the United States: Origins and Legacy of War</u></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.goucher.edu/library/jausten/jane.htm">http://www.goucher.edu/library/jausten/jane.htm</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Rodale's Visual Encyclopedia of Needlecrafts</u></li> <li>• <i>Newsweek</i></li> <li>• <u>America (the book): A Citizen's Guide to Democracy Inaction</u></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.much-ado.net/jane/">http://www.much-ado.net/jane/</a></li> </ul>