

Sources of Information

ENCYCLOPEDIAS are collections of short, factual information often written by experts who are knowledgeable about the topic.

Use an Encyclopedia

- for background information on a topic
- to find key ideas, important dates or concepts

Examples

- *Encyclopedia Americana* (general encyclopedia)
- *Encyclopedia of Marriage and the Family* (subject encyclopedia)

BOOKS cover virtually any topic, fact or fiction. For research purposes, look for books that synthesize all the information on one topic to support a particular argument or thesis.

Use a Book

- for comprehensive information on a topic
- to find historical information
- to find summaries of research to support an argument

Examples

- Morrison, George S., *Early Childhood Education Today*, 2001.
- Hurley, Jennifer A., ed. *Eating Disorders: Opposing Viewpoints*, 2001.

WORLD WIDE WEB allows you to access most types of information on the Internet through a browser. Some web sites are reliable, but others are not. Check the author, currency, accuracy, objectivity, and coverage.

Use the Web

- to link to information provided by the library over the Internet
- to find current news and information
- to find information about companies
- to find information from all levels of government
- to find both expert and popular opinions

Examples of Web Sites

- www.hawaii.edu (a university site)
- www.whitehouse.gov (a government site)
- www.redcross.org (an organization site)
- www.cocacola.com (a company site)

JOURNALS contain articles written by scholars in an academic or professional field. Articles contain author credentials, abstracts, and lists of works cited.

Use a Journal

- when doing scholarly research
- to find out what has been studied on your topic
- to find bibliographies that point to other relevant research

Examples of Journals

- *Journal of American History*
- *Journal of Geophysical Research*

Databases to Search for Journal Articles

- InfoTrac - *Expanded Academic ASAP*
- EBSCOHost - *Academic Search Premier*

MAGAZINES contain articles about diverse topics of popular interest and current events. There are usually color pictures and many advertisements in magazines.

Use a Magazine

- to find information or opinions about popular culture
- to find up-to-date information about current events

Examples of Magazines

- *Newsweek*
- *Sports Illustrated*

Databases to Search for Magazine Articles

- InfoTrac - *General Reference Center*
- EBSCOHost - *MasterFILE Premier*

NEWSPAPERS contain articles about current events usually published daily.

Use a Newspaper

- to find current information about international, national and local events
- to find editorials, commentaries, expert or popular opinions

Examples

- *Honolulu Advertiser*
- *Wall Street Journal*

Databases to Search for Newspaper Articles

- EBSCOHost – *Newspaper Source*
- *Hawaii Newspaper Index*