

Safe and Effective Web-Searching

Conduct Safe and Meaningful Searches

1. Vary Your Search Engine:
2. Use Specific Keywords:
3. Simplify Your Search Terms:
4. Use Quotation Marks:
5. Remove Unhelpful Words:
6. Refine Your Search Using Operators:
7. Avoid Search Pitfalls:

TRAAP TEST

Use the following list to help you evaluate sources. Answer the questions as appropriate, and then rank each of the 5 parts from 1 to 10 (1 = unreliable, 10 = excellent). Add up the scores to give you an idea of whether you should use the resource (and whether your professor would want you to!).

Timeliness:

- When was the information published or posted?
- Has the information been revised or updated?
- Is the information current or out-of-date for your topic?
- Are the links to other websites working?

Relevance:

- Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?
- Is the information at an appropriate reading level?
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before choosing this one?
- Would you be comfortable using this source for a research paper?

Authority:

- Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor?
- Is the author qualified to write on the topic?
- Is there contact information, such as a publisher or e-mail address?
- Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source?

Accuracy:

- Is the information supported by evidence?
- Can you verify any of the information in another source?
- Can you find sources cited or linked to the original source?

Purpose:

- What is the purpose of the information?
- Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear?
- Is the information fact? opinion? persuasion?
- Are there any biases? Do they only support one point of view?

45 - 50 *Excellent*

40 - 44 *Good*

35 - 39 *Average*

30 - 34 *Borderline Acceptable*

Below 30 - *Unacceptable*

TOTAL:

Referencing

- APA format
- In-text citation: (Author, year of publication)
- References
 - Electronic: second line is indented
 - Author(s). Title. *Journal Name*. Year; vol. (issue no.):inclusive pages. URL [provide the URL in this field; no need to use "URL:" preceding it]. Published [date]. Updated [date]. Accessed [date].
 - Printed Journals: second line is indented
 - Author's surnames and initials. Title of article and subtitle (as applicable). Abbreviated name of journal. Year; Volume number (Issue number); Part or supplement number, when pertinent: Inclusive page numbers
 - Printed Books: second line is indented
 - Authors' surnames and first and middle initials. *Title of book and subtitle, if any*. Volume number and volume title, when there is more than one volume or Edition number (do not indicate first edition). Place of publication: Name of publisher; Year of copyright. Page numbers, when specific pages are cited.