What Kind of Resources Do You Need?

BOOKS—Use the Catalog

JOURNAL ARTICLES (Electronic)—Use a database such as Academic Search Premier. This includes magazines, newspapers, and journals.

JOURNAL ARTICLES (Print)—Use the subject guide for your topic (kwu.libguide.com/nursing) or browse the journals on 2nd floor.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES—Go to Databases, then Newsbank for national newspaper coverage.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES—Use a database and limit to “peer-reviewed” articles.

FACTS—Go to Databases, then Credo Reference for short articles in specialized encyclopedias.

PRO and CON on current issues—Go to Databases, then CQ Researcher.

National Statistics—Use a library guide or usa.gov website.

Using Google — Evaluate ALL websites from the internet!

The most reliable websites do not have advertising. The exceptions are long-standing, reputable sources, such as magazines with serious investigative journalism (Atlantic Monthly, New Yorker, Harper’s, etc.).

The most reliable websites explain the sources of their information. Look for details about where the quotes or data came from, or look for a bibliography with sources.

Read the “about us” page and look for details, names, positions, and dates. The authors should be experts working in their fields (with jobs at national organizations, universities, etc.). Find out who is funding the website. Do some fact-checking on people and organizations.

Experts tend to be long-winded. They give examples and definitions.

Read enough about a topic to understand the national “conversation” on the various sides of the issue. Then you’ll be better able to judge whether a website is a valid and professional source.

If you use Google . . .

• Ask a librarian or your instructor to double-check your choices.
• Use Wikipedia only to find more reputable sources.
• Use Google Scholar (look under “more” and then “even more”).
• Use Google’s Advanced Search and limit your search to .edu and .gov domains. Always double-check .edu sites to make sure they are not student pages.