



Finding reliable, high-quality sources

1. Start with our online, subscription-based databases

<https://reynoldslibrary.sd61.bc.ca/> > Research Toolkit

Offsite username: reynoldsstudent

Offsite password: #67roadrunners

These sources are searchable databases of published journals, newspapers and magazines. Because these sources are already vetted and peer-reviewed, you do not need to be concerned about filtering out unreliable information.

2. When searching on Google, try a variety of search terms

Be sure to vary your search terms, including keywords from your question or topic.

To refine your search, use **Boolean operators**. Don't know what they are or how to use them? Watch this 3-minute video: <https://youtu.be/LTJygQwYV84>

3. Run your sources through the CRAAP test to ensure they are good quality

Currency: When was it published, posted or updated?

- ☐ Can you find a date on the page?
- ☐ Has it been published or updated recently?
- ☐ Do the links work, or are they broken?

Relevance: Is the information provided useful to you?

- ☐ Does it relate to your topic or answer your questions?
- ☐ Who is the site aimed at? Students? Researchers? Shoppers? The General Public?
- ☐ Is the information at a good language and content level for you? I.e. not too simple or too complicated.

Authority: Who wrote it? Do they know what they're talking about?

- ☐ Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor? Can you Google them?
- ☐ What makes the author an expert on this topic? Do they list their skills and credentials?
- ☐ Is there clear contact information?
- ☐ Look at the web address. Does it tell you anything about the source or author?
.edu (educational), .gov (government), .org (nonprofit organization)

Accuracy: Is it reliable, true and correct?

- ☐ Have you checked the information against other sources? Is it true?
- ☐ Are there spelling, grammar or language errors? Is it well-written
- ☐ Do they support their information with good, clear evidence?
- ☐ Is the information motivated by emotions or bias?

Purpose: Why was this website written and published?

- ☐ What is the purpose of the information? to inform? teach? sell? entertain? persuade?
- ☐ Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear?
- ☐ Is the information fact? opinion? propaganda (meant to scare, anger or alarm people)?



How to tell
if a website
stinks!