

Information Literacy

Goal: Distinguish reliable information from trivial information.

Discussion Topics

- **Date** – When was it published? Is the information up-to-date? Have there been any major discoveries between then and now?
- **Author Credentials** – What makes this person a credible source? What is their background?
- **Web address** – Look at the ending. .com, .org, .gov, .edu
- **Benefactor** – Who is paying for the publishing of the information? Who paid for the research? Why are they paying for it?
- **Contact information** – Are they willing to answer questions you have?

Popular Magazines vs. Scholarly Journals

Popular is for entertainment. No research. No review process. Goal is to make money by selling more copies.

Scholarly Journals require research. Peers in the field review the articles. Goal is to further research and information.

What to look for:

- **Reference list** – proves research
- **Author credentials** – proves credibility
- **Date of publication** – ensures accurate information

Search Engines vs. Databases

You get what you pay for.

Anyone can put anything on the internet and chances are you can find it on Google. Search engines will give you millions of results.

Databases are expensive because they are screened and disaggregated. They are full of academic material. Databases will give you reliable results.

Abstract vs. Full Text

Abstract

- Summary
- Brief description
- Doesn't give whole idea

Full Text

- Entire article
- Presents all the information
- Can be cited