



# How to research academic content



## A definition

Academic or scholarly sources are written by experts in their field and provide credible, reliable and accurate information supported by evidence and up-to-date research.



## Why is this important?

With the variety of information available online, false or misleading claims can easily and quickly spread and can have harsh consequences on one's views and actions.



## Tips and tricks



To verify that a source is reliable, use the CRAAP test: **Currency** (Is the source recent or up to date?), **Relevance** (Is the source directly related to the topic?), **Authority** (Is the website reputable and trustworthy? Are there advertisements or mistakes? Is the author identified? Are they an expert in the field?), **Accuracy** (Is the source supported by evidence? Is there a bibliography or references?) and **Purpose** (What was the motive behind publishing the information? What is the point of the website?)



Always use more than one source: check if different websites provide the same information or use the same source in their bibliography or references.



## Useful resources and tools



Scribbr, [“How to Find Sources | Scholarly Articles, Books, Etc.”](#), gives advice and examples of sources, databases and search engines to find reliable information.



Scribbr, [“What Are Credible Sources & How to Spot Them | Examples”](#), explains types of sources and how to identify credible, peer-reviewed information.



[Google Scholar](#) is an academic search engine which allows you to find relevant books and articles which have been cited as proof of their credibility.



[Oxford Research Encyclopedias](#) is a peer-reviewed trustworthy website for academic research about a wide variety of topics and thousands of sources.



[Project MUSE](#) is a reliable website with over 800 scholarly journals and 80,000 books from leading universities and scholarly societies, along with 4000 open-access books.