



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 whether different reliable 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.