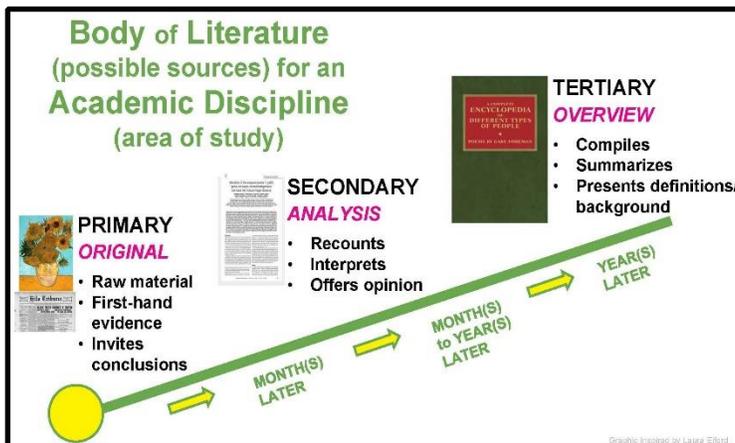


The Successful College Researcher – Part 2

Participant's Guide



Source Types

List examples of each source type.

Primary:

Secondary:

Tertiary:

Getting Started with Research Starter

- My topic is . . .
- Search your topic in Research Starter. What words did you use to search?
- Experiment with limiters and filters (full text, date, scholarly/peer-reviewed, source type, language, etc.). Which ones did you use?
- Choose the best source for your topic. Write the title here.
- What kind of work is this source (book, journal article, news, etc.)?
- What is the main reason you chose this as your best source?

GUIDE TO EVALUATING SOURCES – THE ARBCs

AUTHORITY	RELIABILITY/VALIDITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the author's credentials/qualifications? • Does the author have expertise in the topic? • Who is the publisher (print) or organization (online)? • What is the reputation of the publisher/organization? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a bibliography/works cited/footnotes? • Can information be verified by other high quality sources? • Are there editors or others who check the information before publication? • Do the conclusions follow logically from the evidence?
BIAS (PERSPECTIVE)	CURRENCY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why was the work written and published? (To inform? To persuade?) • How does the author use language? (Impartially? To provoke emotion – fear/anger?) • Is the author transparent about their perspective? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the source reflect the most up-to-date research? • Do I need historical or current information for my research?

The Successful College Researcher – Part 2 Participant’s Guide

Going Farther with Research Starter

Write your topic here, and underline two or three key concepts.

Write a keyword here.	AND - NOT	Write a keyword here.	AND - NOT	Write a keyword here.
OR		OR		OR
Synonyms/related words go here		Synonyms/related words go here		Synonyms/related words go here
OR		OR		OR
And here . . .		And here . . .		And here . . .
OR		OR		OR
Etc.		Etc.		Etc.

Write out your search string here, and try it in Research Starter.

More Info

- Check out “Research Guides” and “A-Z Database List” on the library’s homepage.
- See “How to Read a Scholarly Article” on page 3 for tips on getting the most from journal articles.
- Attend any library sessions scheduled for your other classes.
- Consult the Reference Help Desk.
- Make an appointment with a librarian.

Database Tips and Tools

- **Tips –**
 - AND returns fewer results (results must contain both “A” AND “B”)
 - OR returns more results (results contain either “A” OR “B”)
 - NOT returns fewer results (results contain “A”, but NOT “B”)
 - Use quotation marks (“ ”) to search for titles or phrases (“heart rate”)
 - Use * to search for words with the same root, without having to type them all (nation* = nation, national, nations, nationality)
- **Tools –** After clicking on a result, choose (click on) a tool from the right side bar, and follow the prompts. Commonly used tools include:
 - **E-mail:** The system will send a link for the result to your inbox; you can include citation information and full text (when available).
 - **Cite:** Choose the citation style you need (for example, MLA or APA), and copy/paste it into a Word document.
 - **Permalink:** Click on this tool, and then copy the link from the box labeled “Permalink” (at the top) to save in a Word document. (Note: The link in the browser search bar is NOT permanent.)
 - **Add to folder & Save:** These tools require an EBSCO account and signing in on the green bar at the top of the page; please see a librarian for help.

How to Read a Scholarly Article

STEP 1: Journal and Author

- To find out whether the journal is peer-reviewed/refereed, how often it is published, who publishes it, etc. click on the journal link from the library database or do a Google search to find the journal web site.
- What are the authors' credentials? Are they affiliated with a university, research organization, or government organization? Are they from a corporation?

STEP 2: Skim

- Read these first:
 1. **Abstract**
 2. **Introduction**
 3. **Discussion/Conclusions**
- Based on that first skim, answer these two questions:
 1. **What is the article about?**
 2. **What point are the authors trying to make? What is their argument?**

STEP 3: Take Notes

- After skimming, read through the whole article.
- In the margin, summarize each paragraph using only a couple of words or a short phrase.
- Question what you read. Ask yourself, does this seem right? Who did the researchers study? How did they analyze it? Did they learn anything meaningful? Sometimes your answers to your internal questions will be positive, yet other times you will come across articles that seem very weak. Make a note of that.
- Number three or four of the most important points in the article; this will help you find those main points later and will help you organize your own thoughts.
- Circle jargon, unusual phrases, technical terms, etc. You can look for definitions/examples or you can use them as keywords to search for more articles later.
- **Highlight** only quotations that you just can't word better (or paraphrase) yourself. Those will be the cited quotations you use in your own paper. Be *very* selective about what you highlight.
- Put a check mark ✓ next to references (in the bibliography, works cited, or reference section) that relate to your project; you can look those up later.
- At the top of each article, **jot down two points**: 1. What is useful or important about this article? 2. What are the article's biases, limitations, weaknesses, or omissions?