How do you find relevant and reliable information?

- What sources are available?
  - Journals
  - Magazines
  - Experts
  - The web

- How do you evaluate the source?

- How relevant and useful?

What makes it a journal? (source - http://lib.colostate.edu/howto/poplr.html)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
<th>POPULAR Magazines</th>
<th>TRADE Magazines</th>
<th>JOURNALS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appearance</td>
<td>eye-catching cover</td>
<td>cover depicts industrial setting</td>
<td>plain cover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>glossy paper</td>
<td>glossy paper</td>
<td>plain paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>pictures and illustrations in color</td>
<td>pictures and illustrations in color</td>
<td>black/white graphics and illustrations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>each issue starts with page 1</td>
<td>each issue starts with page 1</td>
<td>pages consecutive throughout each volume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audience</td>
<td>nonprofessionals</td>
<td>members of a specific business, industry or organization</td>
<td>researchers and professionals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content</td>
<td>personalities, news, and general interest articles</td>
<td>industry trends, new products or techniques, and organizational news</td>
<td>research projects, methodology, and theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>articles written by staff, may be unsigned</td>
<td>articles written by staff or contributing authors</td>
<td>articles written by contributing authors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accountability</td>
<td>editorial review</td>
<td>editorial review</td>
<td>peer review/refereed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>no bibliographies</td>
<td>may have short bibliographies</td>
<td>has bibliographies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertisements</td>
<td>heavy</td>
<td>moderate</td>
<td>few or none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>all or most are trade-related</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What makes it **reliable**?

- Five traditional criteria for evaluating sources
  1. Accuracy
  2. Authority
  3. Objectivity
  4. Currency
  5. Coverage

What about web sources?

- Use the same criteria, *but* …
  1. Accuracy
  2. Authority
  3. Objectivity
  4. Currency
  5. Coverage
“Clues” to look for ...

- Does it look “real”?  
- Is it easy to navigate? Do you know where you are? Can you get to the home page?  
- Is the level of expertise apparent?  
- Is it trustworthy? Are the sources of information obvious?  
- Does it look professional? But not too commercial?  

*When in doubt, leave it out!*

If we have time ...

- Using Google or Yahoo, type in “human factors engineering”  
- Visit several different sites and try to evaluate them on the criteria listed.
Is the information relevant and useful?

- Parts of a Research Article
  - Title
  - Abstract
  - Introduction
  - Method
  - Results
  - Discussion
  - Conclusion
  - References