

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?

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What makes it a *journal*?

(source - <http://lib.colostate.edu/howto/poplr.html>)

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

What makes it *reliable*?

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

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What about web sources?

- Use the same criteria, *but ...*
 1. Accuracy
 2. Authority
 3. Objectivity
 4. Currency
 5. Coverage

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“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!

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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.

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Is the information relevant and useful?

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