RESEARCH SERVICES

OhioLINK
Get books that aren't available at Oberlin for free

Research Appointments
Meet one-on-one with a librarian to discuss sources and strategies

RefME
Mobile app to scan and store citations, store notes and quotes and create bibliographies

Google Scholar   http://scholar.google.com

*Set your GS preferences to get Oberlin's "Find Full Text" links

ONLINE SOURCES & DATABASES

Databases:

Academic Search Complete

Multidisciplinary - good for nearly all subjects. Scholarly and trade journals, popular magazines, newspapers, conference proceedings, book reviews, and more.

Lexis Nexis

A wide range of news, political, legal, and business information from thousands of sources, mostly full text. Includes newspapers, magazines, wire services, federal and state court opinions, federal and state statutes, federal regulations, and SEC filings. News information is updated daily and wire services several times daily.

The CRAAP Test Worksheet

Use the following list to help you evaluate sources. Answer the questions as appropriate, and then rank each of the 5 parts from 1 to 10 (1 = unreliable, 10 = excellent). Add up the scores to give you an idea of whether you should you use the resource (and whether your professor would want you to!).

Currency: *the timeliness of the information*………………………………..................................

- When was the information published or posted? _____
- Has the information been revised or updated? _____
- Is the information current or out-of date for your topic? _____
- Are the links functional? _____

Relevance: *the importance of the information for your needs*…………………………………………….

- Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question? _____
- Who is the intended audience? _____
- Is the information at an appropriate level? _____
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before choosing this one? _____
- Would you be comfortable using this source for a research paper? _____

Authority: the source of the information…………………………………….................................

- Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor? _____
- Are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations given? _____
- What are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations given? _____
- What are the author's qualifications to write on the topic? _____
- Is there contact information, such as a publisher or e-mail address? _____
- Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source? _____

Accuracy: the reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the content…………….................................

- Where does the information come from? _____
- Is the information supported by evidence? _____
- Has the information been reviewed or refereed? _____
- Can you verify any of the information in another source? _____
- Does the language or tone seem biased and free of emotion? _____
- Are there spelling, grammar, or other typographical errors? _____

Purpose: the reason the information exists…………………………………………………………

- What is the purpose of the information? _____
- Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear? _____
- Is the information fact? opinion? propaganda? _____
- Does the point of view appear objective and impartial? _____
- Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal biases? _____

> *45 - 50 Excellent | 40 - 44 Good*
> *35 - 39 Average | 30 - 34 Borderline Acceptable*
> *Below 30 - Unacceptable*

Total: