



Information Sources Clicker Quiz

For each of the scenarios below, choose the best information sources from the choices provided.

1. You are in charge your club's picnic and need to know the weather forecast for this weekend, in case you need to plan for rain.
 - a. Daily newspaper
 - b. Farmer's Almanac
 - c. TV station website

Answer: TV station website. Daily paper might not contain more than today's weather and Farmer's Almanac provides long-range forecasts. Most television stations have an online presence where you can find a 7-day forecast.

2. Your BIO 101 group must make a presentation on the Human Genome Project. You need to pick a subtopic, but you are completely unfamiliar with the topic itself.
 - a. CINAHL Plus, a health sciences research database
 - b. genome.gov, the website of the National Human Genome Research Institute
 - c. 2000 edition of Encyclopedia Britannica

Answer: genome.gov. The government website is a thorough and reputable information source. CINAHL is a very good health sciences database, but most articles will focus on a specific aspect. The genome project was not finished until 2003, so the 2000 edition of Britannica will not provide the up-to-date coverage.

3. You are enrolled in College Algebra and are having trouble understanding the concept of matrices. You are looking for an alternative explanation that might help you understand.
 - a. A video developed by the math department at another college and linked from your library's website
 - b. Your friend, who is in the class with you and currently passing with a C average
 - c. An article from the journal Math Horizons, which is available online and in print from the library

Answer: The video. If the library website features a link to a source, it is probably a good source. Although many students trust their friends as information sources, this does not make them experts. Math Horizons is a scholarly journal, so an article from it may not be intended for someone who is struggling with a concept.

4. For your Speech class you will be arguing in favor of concealed carry. You need to inform yourself about both sides of the argument to make a good presentation.
 - a. A book from the Opposing Viewpoints series about gun control
 - b. nra.org, the official website of the National Rifle Association
 - c. A PBS documentary titled *After Newtown: Guns in America*

Answer: The book. The Opposing Viewpoints series presents both sides of the argument without bias. The National Rifle Organization's position is clearly in favor of concealed carry. The title of the video seems to associate guns with violence, so it may be biased against concealed carry.

5. Your research paper will focus on the religious aspects of polygamy in the United States. You are looking for a credible and scholarly resource.
 - a. A first-hand account, the book *The Witness Wore Red: the 19th Wife, Who Brought Polygamous Cult Leaders to Justice*.
 - b. polygamy.com: "The Web's comprehensive source for information about polygamy."

- c. An article entitled “Reevaluating Reynolds: The Constitutional Case for Religiously Motivated Polygamy,” written by a Political Science professor at the University of Michigan, published by the *Journal of Politics and Law*, and found on Google Scholar.

Answer: The Google Scholar article. Unless your professor specifies that all scholarly articles must come from library databases, scholarly information you find in other sources is fair game as long as it is credible. The first-person insights provided from the book might be helpful, but it is not a scholarly resource. The website, though full of information, shows no evidence of being scholarly or authoritative.