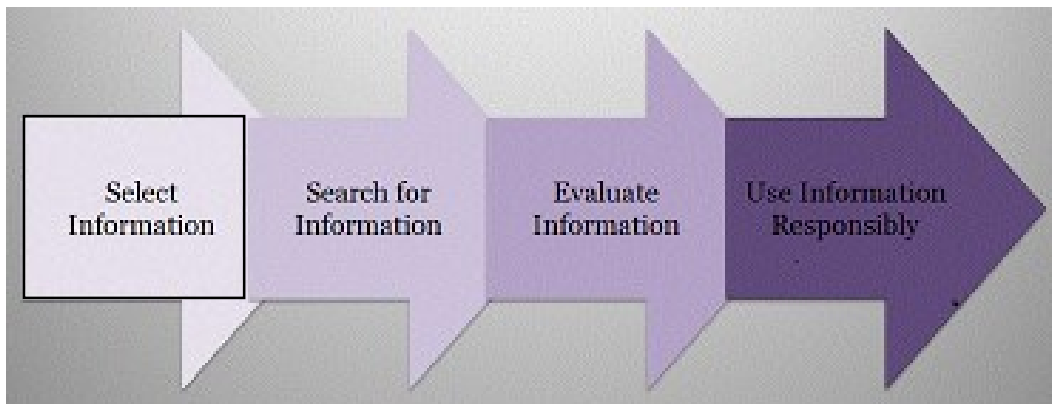


Name: _____



The Research Process: Select Information Sources



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Required Sources

Some instructors require their students to use specific types of information resources, such as reference books or scholarly journal articles. List any that your instructor requires you to use.

Types of Sources

There are many types of information sources for research. Consider which are available to you and choose those that are most useful for your topic. Indicate below which types of sources you will use for your research. See the table on the reverse for more information about different types of sources.

- _____ Reference books (print or online)
- _____ Books (print or eBooks)
- _____ Videos (DVD or streaming)
- _____ Scholarly journal articles
- _____ Non-scholarly magazine or journal articles
- _____ Websites
- _____ Blogs, wikis or other online sources
- _____ Statistics or other data
- _____ Personal interviews or other _____

Name: _____

Information Sources: Uses, Advantages, and Disadvantages

Source Type	Access	Utility	Advantages	Disadvantages
Book (nonfiction)	Print, Online	Research, information	Thorough treatment of a topic	May not contain the latest information; may not be scholarly
Encyclopedia	Print, Online	Research, information	Good topical coverage; good source for background information	Information is usually not very specific
Magazine	Print	Entertainment, information	Good for general information; contemporary focus	Not scholarly in nature
Trade/Professional Journal	Print	Information	Articles written by specialists in their fields	Oriented toward specific fields; not scholarly in nature
Newspapers	Print, online	Information	Good source for current events; primary sources	Not scholarly; information may be biased
Scholarly Journal	Print, Online	Research, information	Articles written by authorities; scholarly discussion; may be peer-reviewed*	Subject may be very focused – sometimes and advantage and sometimes not
Government Documents	Print, online**	Research, information	Many produced; cover wide variety of topics; good source of statistics	Information is very specific
Research databases	Online	Research, information	Many topics; articles written by authorities; scholarly discussion; may be peer-reviewed*	Access restricted to authorized users; user name and password required; may be very focused
Videos	DVD, streaming	Research, information, entertainment	Good for visual learners; wide variety of topics.	More difficult to mark a useful passage than print media.
Open web	Online	Entertainment, information	Quantity of information	Quality of information is uneven; authority of some sources is unknown
Google Scholar	Online	Research, information	Scholarly information	May not be peer-reviewed; access may be restricted
Social media	Online	Entertainment, information	Information updated frequently	Quality of information is uneven; authority of some sources is unknown

*Peer review is a process by which a panel of experts reviews an article for quality assurance.

**The SVCC library is not a government documents repository, so only online government documents are available.