TODAY’S TOPICS

• Explore second part of the research process
• Evaluating Internet resources
• Internet resources
  • Google
  • Google Scholar
  • Wikipedia
RESEARCH PROCESS

1. Topic
2. Research Question
3. Find Sources
4. Evaluate Sources
5. Reflect, Write
6. Search Terms
EVALUATING INFORMATION

• Need to evaluate all information whether in print or online

• Criteria to consider
  • Currency
  • Relevancy
  • Accuracy
  • Authority
  • Purpose

• Some of the criteria will be more or less important depending on your need
LOOK FOR CURRENCY OF WEBSITE

• When was website updated last?
IDENTIFY AUTHOR OR ORGANIZATION SPONSORING WEBSITE

• Learn more about the author
  • Educational background – is author’s education in subject area he/she is writing about?
    • Look for information on the website
    • Search author’s name in Google Scholar to see if he/she has written anything else

• Learn more about the sponsor
  • “About us” link on the organization’s website
  • Charity Navigator
  • Source Watch – tracks corporations
  • WHOISICANN - see who owns the website
  • Wikipedia can be source of information on organizations
DETERMINE WEBSITE’S RELEVANCE, PURPOSE, & ACCURACY

- Does information presented relate to your topic or answer your question?
- Why does information exist?
  - Inform, teach, sell, entertain, persuade?
- Is the information accurate?
  - Reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of content
  - Does point of view presented seem objective or impartial?
    - Be aware of bias
FOR EXAMPLE

Employment Policies Institute’s position on raising the minimum wage
LEARN ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

- From **About Us** from their website

ABOUT US

Founded in 1991, the Employment Policies Institute is a non-profit research organization dedicated to studying public policy issues surrounding employment growth. In particular, EPI focuses on issues that affect entry-level employment.

Among other issues, EPI research has quantified the impact of new labor costs on job creation, explored the connection between entry-level employment and welfare reform, and analyzed the demographic distribution of mandated benefits. EPI sponsors nonpartisan research which is conducted by independent economists at major universities around the country.
CHECK OUT CHARITY NAVIGATOR
SEE WHAT WIKIPEDIA OR SOURCEWATCH HAVE TO SAY

Employment Policies Institute

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

The Employment Policies Institute (EPI) is a non-profit organization that conducts research on employment issues such as minimum wage and health care. It was established in 1989 and has been described as a "nonpartisan research group that studies issues of entry-level employment".[1] Employment Policies Institute is not to be confused with the similar named Economic Policy Institute, which is a liberal think tank advocating for low to moderate income families in the United States.

The center is an affiliate of the Heritage Foundation and lists the center for Media and Democracy as a source of information.

Employment Policies Institute (EPI) is one of several front groups created by Berman & Co., a Washington, DC public affairs firm owned by Rick Berman, who lobbies for the restaurant, hotel, alcoholic beverage and tobacco industries. While most commonly referred to as EPI, it is registered as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization under the name of "Employment Policies Institute Foundation." In its annual internal Revenue Service return, EPI states that it "shares office space with Berman & Company on a cost pass through basis."[1]
EVALUATING GOOGLE RESULTS

- Identifying best results of Google search

Would you trust an ad for cancer treatment?

Ad: How To Stop Cancer Very Fast - New Treatment Is Saving Lives

Ad: Wholesale Cancer Magnets | Large Selection, Low Prices
Magnet Therapy | Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
https://www.mskcc.org/search/about/herbs
GOOGLE ADVANCED SEARCH

• Allows you to filter your results by
  • Language
  • Region
  • Last update
  • Site or domain – limit results to specific domain (.gov) or site (cdc.gov)
    • Domain: site:.gov
    • Site: site:cdc.gov
ALTERNATIVES TO GOOGLE’S BIASED ALGORITHMS

**DUCKDUCKGO.COM**
- Take back your privacy

![DuckDuckGo privacy icon](image)

**STARTPAGE.COM**
- Google search results with privacy protection

![StartPage search engine](image)
GOOGLE SCHOLAR

• Has Advanced Search feature
Google Scholar

Advanced search

Find articles
- with all of the words
- with the exact phrase
- with at least one of the words
- without the words
- where my words occur
  - anywhere in the article
  - in the title of the article

Return articles authored by
- e.g., "PJ Hayes" or McCarthy

Return articles published in
- e.g., J Biol Chem or Nature

Return articles dated between
- 2011 — 2018
- e.g., 1996
LIMITATIONS OF GOOGLE SCHOLAR

• Familiar and easy to use BUT
  • Wide-ranging coverage but not comprehensive
  • Doesn’t provide criteria for what it considers scholarly
  • Quality of results varies
  • Can’t limit to peer-reviewed/scholarly and full-text
  • Not everything is free
QUESTION 1

How can Wikipedia be useful in your research?

a. You can cite to any information you find there;

b. You can use it for background information and as a source of additional key words;

c. You can use it to help you broaden a topic that is too narrow or narrow a topic that is too broad;

d. All of the above

e. Only b and c above
WIKIPEDIA

- Open to edits from anyone who registers as editor
HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT IS TRUE?

- International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions
  - https://www.ifla.org/publications/node/1174
STEPS TO VERIFYING THE TRUTH

• Use your own eyes – has someone else fact-checked the source?
• Go upstream to the source of the claim
  • Most web content not original so go to original source to understand trustworthiness of information
• Read laterally
  • Once you get to source read what other people say about source (publication, author, etc.)
• Circle back if hit dead end
  • Begin again using what you have already learned
• Check your emotions
  • If something makes you laugh, cry or get mad, let that be a trigger to dig a little deeper for the truth
FACT-CHECKING HELP

• Fact-checking websites:
  o Snopes.com
  o Politifact.com
  o Factcheck.org
  o Truthbetold.news
  o NPR Political Factchecker