

Conducting Research

The two best places to look for sources for your research paper are the Library Catalog and Databases.

Library Catalog: This is where you will find resources that the library owns, such as print books, e-books, reference materials, and films. Check the university library website for assistance on how to search.

Databases: This is where you will find the most up-to-date resources, such as newspaper articles, magazine articles, and peer-reviewed journal articles. Even those you will access these as electronic materials, you will still need to go through the library website to do so since the library pays to access these materials. If you don't go through the library website, you will not be able to access many of these resources. There are many different databases divided up by subject area and discipline; you can choose a database that suits your assignment needs and find the articles most relevant to your research. Check the university library website for assistance on how to access these databases and how to search.

There are many types of sources you will encounter in your research. Here is a brief overview of the differences between them.

Print Book: a physical book, usually located in the library stacks
. contain a lot of information, but not constantly updated like many other sources

E-Book: an electronic book, only located online
. same as print book, but easier to search through text

Newspaper Article: an article from a daily or weekly newspaper, usually found online
. contain most up-to-date information, but don't always give a complete picture

Magazine Article: an article from a weekly/monthly/quarterly magazine, usually found online
. contain fairly up-to-date information, but quality of magazines varies greatly

Article from an Online News Source: an article from a news website, only located online
. contain most up-to-date information, but reliability varies greatly

Article in a Scholarly Journal: sometimes referred to as a Peer-Reviewed Journal, written exclusively by experts in the field, only found through database searches
. more in-depth than other types of articles, but tend to be longer and often too specific for introductory college papers



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