

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Libraries – books, journals, e-resources.
- JSTOR – digital library of academic journals, books, and primary sources.
- Museums & Galleries
- You Tube
- Films & Documentaries
- Internet – search engines, databases, specific websites.



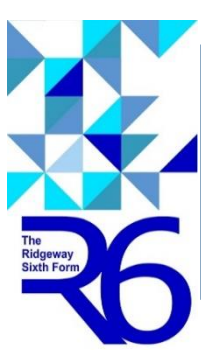
ONLINE RESEARCH SKILLS



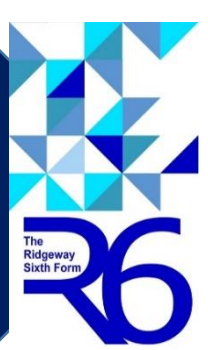
Searching the internet for information requires skill – the aim of the game is to eliminate the results you don't want, so you are presented with good information that suits your needs. Being a smart researcher is key and any online searching will benefit from the *Eight Tips to Google Like a Pro* detailed below.



News Literacy Project (undated) *Eight Tips to Google Like a Pro*. Available at: http://newslit.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Eight-Tips-to-Google-Like-a-Pro_2021_FINALVERSION.pdf (Accessed: 6 July 2021)



RESEARCH SKILLS 1



SEARCH ENGINES & ONLINE DATABASES

Despite the fact that Google has become a verb “to Google”, there are a number of other search engines you can use and online databases that do not require a registration or subscription. This list is by no means exhaustive.

GOOGLE, YAHOO, BING – generic search engines.

GOOGLE SCHOLAR, MICROSOFT ACADEMIC, BASE, – searchable databases of scholarly literature and academic resources. All disciplines.

SEMANTIC SCHOLAR – searchable database of scholarly literature and academic resource in the Science field.

SUBJECT SPECIFIC WEBSITES

There are some fantastic subject specific websites which you may find useful when practicing your research skills. Newcastle University’s Sixth Form Study website lists many excellent websites, as do the Wider Resource Lists produced in school for every subject taught in R6. Your teachers and librarians will also be able to give you recommendations.

<https://sixthformstudyskills.ncl.ac.uk/finding-resources/subject-specific-websites/>
<https://www.ridgewayschool.com/6th-form/r6-wider-reading>



WHO’S WEBSITE IS IT?

When searching, have a look at the web address as an indicator of the owner.

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| .edu | Used by many educational institutions. |
| .ac | Used by many educational institutions. |
| .gov | Used by government departments. |
| .org | Tends to be used by non-profit organisations, some which are reliable and some of which are very biased. |
| .com | Used by commercial or corporate organisations whose aim is to make profit. |



RESEARCH SKILLS 1



BE AWARE...

With any searching on the internet, you need to be aware of the validity and reliability of the information you find. You need to be particularly aware of –

MISINFORMATION – False information that is spread, regardless of whether there is intent to mislead. (Dictionary.com)

DISINFORMATION – Deliberately misleading or biased information; manipulated narrative or facts; propaganda. (Dictionary.com)

FAKE NEWS – False stories that appear to be news, spread on the internet or using other media, usually created to influence political views or as a joke. (Cambridge Dictionary)

DEEPFAKE – A video or sound recording that replaces someone's face or voice with that of someone else, in a way that appears real. (Cambridge Dictionary)

RESOURCE EVALUATION

C.R.A.A.P. TEST

C - Currency

R - Relevance

A - Authority

A - Accuracy

P - Purpose

To develop your critical thinking skills, you can adopt various strategies to evaluate and scrutinise the information you have researched, commonly known as the CRAAP test. Using the subject headers in the mnemonic and the questions on the image overleaf will help you avoid using sources which may contain misinformation and bias as well as establishing whether the information is current, accurate, from a trusted source and suitable for your needs. Ideally all 5 criteria need to be met.



RESEARCH SKILLS 1



EVALUATING MY SOURCES WITH CRAAP



C **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?

R **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?

A **Authority** The 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?

A **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?

P **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?