

# RELIABLE RESOURCES



## SPEAKING/DISCUSSION

1. *Look at the picture.*

Where do you usually take information for a research?

What features do you look for choosing the information?

How do you check the reliability of data?

How do you assess the quality of resources?

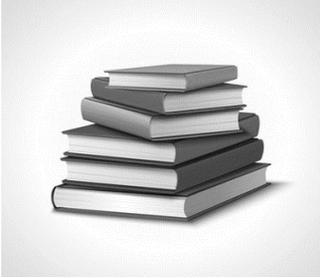
Do you give a feedback to the authors if you notice a mistake?

## INSIGHT INTO THE TOPIC

### **What is a Reliable Source?**

A reliable source is one that provides a thorough, well-reasoned theory, argument, discussion, etc. based on strong evidence.

2. Study the scheme.

	<p><b>Scholarly, peer-reviewed articles or books</b> -written by researchers for students and researchers. Original research, extensive bibliography. Found in GALILEO's academic databases and Google Scholar. Anatomy of a Scholarly Article.</p>
	<p><b>Trade or professional articles or books</b> - written by practitioners in a field to impart practice-oriented information. Found in GALILEO databases. Some may also be found through Google or other search engine, but may require payment to see the full text. Beware of sources on the internet that <i>look</i> like trade/professional articles, but don't have reliable content.</p>
	<p><b>Magazine articles, books and newspaper articles from well-established newspapers</b> - written for a general audience by authors or journalists who have consulted reliable sources and vetted through an editor. These sources may provide some of their articles online for free. Newspapers and magazines often contain both researched news stories and editorial/opinion pieces that express the view of the writer.</p>
	<p><b>Websites and blogs</b> - can be reliable or unreliable, hoaxes or sincere misinformation. Researchers and other experts often use blogs as a way to share their knowledge with the general public, but anyone with computer access can do so too, to further any agenda they want. It's up to you to evaluate the quality of what you find online. Online news sources are particularly notorious for false information. Open Sources, evaluates a large list of news sources, labeling them according to their level of reliability.</p>
	<p><b>Wikipedia</b> - some entries are reliable, some are not - it's up to you to evaluate. The authors are anonymous, so there's no way to determine their expertise, or the expertise of the Wikipedia editor who oversees the entry. Wikipedia editors will post warnings if they think the entry has weaknesses. Wikipedia entries tend to be conservative, reflecting traditional views over newer research.</p>

Answer the questions.

What resources are definitely reliable? How are other resources characterized?

## Who Decides a Source is Reliable? Who Reviews?

3. Study the pictures and information below. Give comments on the pictures and information under every headline.

### Peer Review - Scholarly Books & Journal Articles

A scholar/researcher/professor writes an article (aka 'manuscript') or book proposal. Then they.....

1. ....submit the manuscript or proposal to an academic journal or book publisher in their field of study
2. The book or journal editor decides whether the topic and overall quality of the manuscript or proposal is appropriate for their journal or publication catalog.
3. If it is acceptable, the editor emails the manuscript or proposal to 2 or 3 scholarly experts in the subject
4. The experts read, critique, recommend:
  - 1) publish as is (rare)
  - 2) publish with revisions (major or minor)
  - 3) Do not publish.

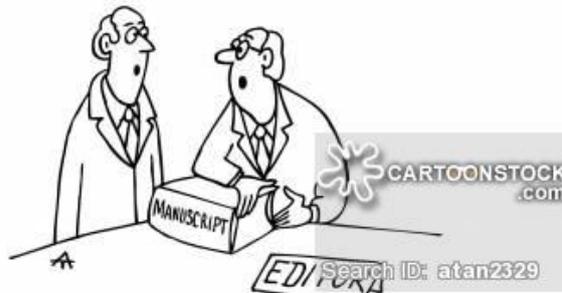


Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as 'quite an improvement.'

## Editorial Review

The editor(s) are experienced practitioners or journalists

Used by: magazines for a general audience, professional or trade magazines for practitioners in a field, professional newspapers (print or online).



"Can you redo this manuscript, John, and make it less stupid?"

## You Review

Everything you find online through Google or other search engine, Facebook, etc.

It could be anything, from a scholarly, peer-reviewed article to a well-meaning but misinformed article, to a hoax.



## **Criteria for Evaluating Reliability**

The books and articles you find in GIL, the library catalog, or in a UGA Library database have been through a review process by scholarly or professional

peers/editors. This process makes them much more likely to be reliable, fact-checked sources. Sources on the internet may or may not go through any fact-checking or editorial process. You must determine reliability yourself.

To determine the reliability of a source, ask yourself these questions:

Who is the author and are they credible?

Does the source have an author (either a person or an organization) or is it written anonymously?

If the author is an organization, can you find other reputable sources that treat it as a reliable entity?

Does the organization provide a description of their mission and purpose?

Do they list staff and board members, and their relevant credentials?

If the author is a person, do they present verifiable credentials? (professor at a university? researcher in a think tank? well-known practitioner?)

Have they published their work in reputable journals or magazines that you can find in UGA Library databases?

Have other authors written about this author's work in reputable books or journals?

Are they affiliated with reputable organizations that have been mentioned in books or articles found in UGA Library databases?

Is the content substantial and supported by evidence?

Does the source go into reasonable depth? Are there so many ads on the page that they overwhelm the content?

Are facts and statistics footnoted where necessary?

Are their footnoted sources reliable?

Is the site trying to sell you something? (Not necessarily bad, but be wary!)

If they advocate position, do they provide evidence to support it?

How current is the info?

Does the content seem out-of-date?

When was the webpage last updated?

Are sources cited also current?

Are its links "live" or broken?



## INTERNET USE

4. Follow the link: <https://www.lib.ncsu.edu/tutorials/scholarly-articles/>

*Study the anatomy of the scholarly article.*

*Look through various reliable resources, find an article with the anatomy in accordance to the example over the link. Analyze it from the point of Criteria for Evaluating Reliability. Is the information in the found article reliable?*



## LISTENING

5. Watch the video 3.5 and answer the questions.

1. Information is divided into two types. What are they?
2. Where information is received from?
3. What are the questions to characterize a type of the information?
4. What features show credibility of a site?
5. For what governmental resources are useful?
6. What features show credibility of a paper?
7. What defines the credibility of a book?
8. What features establish credibility of a demonstrated chapter in the book?
9. What are primary sources of information?
10. Are periodicals credible?
11. Why are academic journals on the top of credibility?
12. Is the video credential? Why?



## READING

6. Before reading the text answer the following questions:

What are the advantages and disadvantages of the Internet?

What changes of the Internet use can you predict?

## Is internet reliable and trustworthy?

ANAMITRA SAHA

The Internet, being of prime importance in our lives surely has placed itself to a position wherein its importance and need can't be measured. The internet is important indeed no matter what and without it the urban populace precisely, is going to land in a big trouble. Internet is constant, **meticulously** fixed in its place, but the effects caused from internet isn't. Effects of internet keeps on changing according to situations primarily. The internet is an abode for good, bad, best, evil, disastrous and heavenly stuffs as well. We can never pre-assume anything about internet thinking that it may have only the good stuffs. No, straightaway! It is a pathetic place cause internet is highly prone to cybercrime which is quite **prevalent** globally. On the contrary, internet serves the best when we hit the right track and choose the right path and do not **deviate** deliberately. It solely depends on a person how he/she uses the internet. Internet can be a place of hell where the evil resides whereas, it can also be a homeland to the best of the things that we would like to discover and **enhance** our knowledge and skills beyond boundaries.

How much reliable is it to use the internet?

Reliability and trustworthy both go hand in hand. One is interdependent on each other. Only when we find something reliable, when start building our trust on it. Suppose I talk about the students, for instance. Student researchers should always make these decisions, even about materials they find in the university library. However, judging the reliability of sources found on the Internet is **crucial** because there is no regulating body that monitors the reliability of what is on the Internet. Although there is so much information on the Internet that it can seem like a university library, it is actually more like a huge open-air market. In one corner there might be reliable sources from whom you can obtain **valuable** information. But over in another corner there might be weirdos, whackos, and eccentrics, from whom anything you obtain is, at best, questionable. The problem is that on the Internet there is no way to tell the difference. Someone who wants to turn Moby

Dick into a glorification of bloodspots or an animal rights tract can post a rewritten version with no indication of its differences from Melville's original. When it comes to doing your research on the Internet, the saying should be **caveat internauta**, or "let the surfer beware."

Some basic advantages as well as disadvantages of the Internet:

Advantages:

- Information on almost every subject imaginable.
- Powerful search engines.
- Ability to do research from your home versus research libraries.
- Information at various levels of study. Everything from scholarly articles to ones directed at children.
- Message boards where people can discuss ideas on any topic. **Ability** to get wide range of opinions. People can find others that have a similar interest in whatever they are interested in.
- The internet provides the ability of emails. Free mail service to anyone in the country.
- Platform for products like SKYPE, which allow for holding a video conference with anyone in the world who also has access.
- Friendships and love connections have been made over the internet by people involved in love/passion over similar interests.
- Things such as Yahoo Answers and other sites where kids can have readily available help for homework. News, of all kinds is available almost **instantaneously**. Commentary, on that news, from every conceivable viewpoint is also available.

Disadvantages:

- There is a lot of wrong information on the internet. Anyone can post anything, and much of it is garbage.
- There are predators that hang out on the internet waiting to get unsuspecting people in dangerous situations. Some people are getting addicted to the internet and thus causing problems with their interactions of friends and loved ones.

- Easy to waste a lot of time on the internet. You can start surfing, and then realize far more time has passed than you realized. Internet and television together of added to the more sedentary lifestyles of people which further **exacerbates** the obesity problem.
- Internet has a lot of “cheater” sites. People can buy essays and pass them off as their own far more easily than they used to be able to do.
- There are a lot of unscrupulous businesses that have sprung up on the internet to take advantage of people.
- Hackers can create viruses that can get into your personal computer and ruin valuable data.
- Hackers can use the internet for identity theft.
- It can be quite depressing to be on the internet and realize just how uneducated so many people have become in today’s society.

#### Overall impact of internet

When television exploded onto the scene in the 1940-50’s, it provided much the same things the Internet is providing people today: entertainment and information. However, the Internet has certain advantages over television and, most importantly, it provides instant access to specific information. It is interactive, whereas television is not. Avid proponents of the Internet claim it could feasibly replace print media. The cost of publishing a newspaper or magazine online is far less than the cost of printing one. There is no need to purchase bulk paper and ink, which in itself makes publishing on the Internet more attractive. Moreover, not as many hired hands are required to publish online. Newspapers and other print media have yet to take full advantage of the Internet. Their online publications usually appear as carbon copies of their printed publications. There is no interactivity between the reader and the source. Advertisements online do not offer direct gratification. Yes, the Internet is indeed **spectacular**. There are several problems associated with the Internet. It allegedly opens the world to everyone, regardless of race, creed, sex, etc. But despite lowering costs of necessary technological equipment and the advent of Web TV, not everyone can afford to go online. The

internet can be divided into six services: E-mail, Telnet, File Transfer Protocol, Usenet news, Mailing Lists, World Wide Web. The Web, as the World Wide Web (WWW) is commonly referred to, is witnessing a massive growth.



## PRACTICE

7. Choose the appropriate definition for the following words that are in bold in the text.

- |                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1. Meticulously | 6. Valuable          |
| 2. Prevalent    | 7. Caveat internauta |
| 3. Deviate      | 8. Instantaneously   |
| 4. Enhance      | 9. Exacerbate        |
| 5. Crucial      | 10. Spectacular      |
- 
- the principle that the user alone is responsible for checking the quality and suitability of materials before the use.
  - marked by extreme or excessive care in the consideration or treatment of details.
  - to stray especially from a standard, principle, or topic.
  - significant or essential as resolving a crisis
  - to make more violent, bitter, or severe
  - generally or widely accepted, practiced, or favored
  - to increase or improve in value, quality, desirability, or attractiveness
  - having desirable or esteemed characteristics or qualities
  - beautiful in a dramatic and eye-catching way, strikingly large or obvious
  - done, occurring, or acting without any perceptible duration of time



## INTERNET USE

8. Visit the page of George Town University Library, read the full list of questions and choose those that are appropriate in evaluating the reliability of the information:

*<https://www.library.georgetown.edu/tutorials/research-guides/evaluating-internet-content>*

Sample questions:

1. Is there an indication of when the site was last updated?
2. Does the information appear to be valid and well-researched, or is it unsupported by evidence?
3. Is the information free of grammatical, spelling, or typographical errors?
4. Is the information covered fact, opinion, or propaganda?
5. If the owner is not identified, what can you tell about the origin of the site from the address?

9. Skim the articles from *Evaluating Internet Resources* and *Annotated Guide to Selected Resources* (<http://www.loc.gov/rr/business/beonline/selectbib.html>) and list the most important items in evaluating internet resources.



## LISTENING

10. Watch the video and share you ideas on the topic “Evaluating Information Sources”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VfMh9Gd79iU>

*What do you take into account choosing the essential material?*



## GRAMMAR TIPS – LINKING WORDS

11. *Put the following words and expressions into their correct place in the table depending on their function.*

to sum up briefly

to conclude

what's more

it can be concluded

in addition

furthermore

that

in brief

along with

moreover

in the same way

to summarise

similarly

thus

as well as

likewise

also

therefore

besides too

correspondingly

Equation (for example: equally)	Addition (for example: and)	Conclusion (for example: in conclusion)



## PRACTICE

12. *Complete the text with one of the words or expressions from Practice 12. Explain your choice.*

### **Need of evaluation of internet resources**

Anna Kaushik

Too much of information is available on Internet but there is no uniform way by which reliability and authenticity of Internet resources can be judged. It is important to remember that anyone can publish on the Internet and of course it is easier to find and access the published information on the Internet. The quality of the information one finds on the net must be evaluated very carefully. For a journal article to be published in traditional media, it usually goes through some peer review before it is accepted for publication. With a book one can judge quality by the reputation of the publisher, author, series and so on. The flood of raw information on the Internet has not been filtered by peer review or the collaborative efforts of the traditional publishing industry. For better browser software, it is required to develop skills and procedures to select and present information on the Internet. Notess considers that major problem involved in evaluating information on the Internet is that often search engines link to ephemeral pages. These documents often simply move, vanish, or undergo changes after the database was completed. Most databases are not updated daily. Kovacs et al. stressed the need for evaluation of information on the Internet and advised not to believe everything that is found but to find its author's background and abilities. Kovacs used the terms good stuff and poor stuff. Good stuff to describe the quality of information on the Internet. Good stuff is any information that is relevant to the information needs of the client, and meets basic quality-of-information standards. December asserted that even the best web spiders would not be effective if the Internet continues to be flooded with poor quality, redundant, and incorrect information. King asserted that no pre-evaluation can be assumed for Internet resources and there is always a need for evaluating such resources. Since end-user searching is here to stay, it is necessary to teach researchers traditional evaluation techniques in a way that would make them useful and relevant to virtual media. Brandt evaluated the information found through various search engines (i.e. Yahoo, Lycos and Magellan) and pointed out that the web search engines do not prioritize resources on the basis of objectivity and subjectivity of information needed by the user. He advocated for finding answers to questions such as: Is it moderated or not? Are

there affiliations or biographic information of authors? How does it compare to other sources? Are there other online works by the author? Are there online reviews assessing the scope and purpose? etc. Fidel et al. visualized the potential of the World Wide Web as a tool for information gathering and learning is enormous, and much of it has not been envisioned as yet. December warned that without tools and methodologies for gathering, evaluating, managing, and presenting information, the Web's potential as a universe of knowledge could be lost. Fritch and Cromwell asserted that information on the Internet can be published by almost anyone", that there is virtually no filtering of information on the Internet" and that filters of information typically present in a print environment (publishing houses, editors, reviewers, librarians/selectors) are often not present on the Internet. Most of resources on Internet have lack of its reliability; currency and authority that do not make users' conform about authenticity of Internet resources. Anyone can publish almost anything on the Internet, often bypassing the quality assurance benefits offered by traditional publishing Traditional publishing benefits include issuance by an authoritative source, editorial or peer review, and evaluation by experts. There is little or no editorial review of material and no official agency, specialist, or review process for Internet subject matter.



## WRITING

*13. Now practice using linking words in an essay form. Check your previous works written for other units and improve them using suitable linking words. Explain your choice. Or you may express your ideas in the new topic: In the modern world there is a movement away from written exams to more practical assessment. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this trend.*

 PRACTICE

14. *Read the following questions, choose the answer and give the explanation*

1. Unbiased information means that the information is:

- a. either fully fact-based or at least clearly shown as having some bias by the author;
- b. only about the sciences or arts;
- c. written to explain an idea using examples;
- d. supported with graphs and pictures.

2. Verifiable information means that the information is:

- e. unclear about why, where, and how the events of the research;
- f. trustworthy because both the author's credibility and experience and the credibility of the information checked out;
- g. from a certain period of time happened;
- h. filled with vocabulary words that will help the reader learn new ways to talk about the topic.

3. Relevant information means that the information is:

- i. clear and concise;
- j. up-to-date and appropriate for the time period that you are covering on your topic;
- k. opinionated and argumentative;
- l. full of pictures and graphs.



## ADVANCEMENT QUESTIONS

1. What is a Reliable Source?
2. Define scholarly, peer-reviewed articles or books.
3. Define trade or professional articles or books.
4. Define magazine articles, books and newspaper articles from well-established newspapers.
5. Define websites and blogs.
6. Define Wikipedia and other types of public online encyclopedias and thesauruses.
7. Define a Peer Review.
8. Define an Editorial Review.
9. Define criteria for evaluating reliability.
10. What are the advantages and disadvantages of the Internet?
11. What changes of the Internet use can you predict?
12. List the most important items in evaluating internet resources.
13. What is unbiased information?
14. What is verifiable information?
15. What is relevant information?



## RELIABLE INFORMATION SOURCE

1. Abstract and citation database Scopus <https://www.scopus.com>
2. Chaoli Wang, Han-Wei Shen Information Theory in Scientific Visualization, <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/51d5/c8c885e856ceace662108b8ee1c2aaa58e11.pdf>

3. Online subscription-based scientific citation indexing service Web of Science <https://apps.webofknowledge.com>
4. Research database for discovery and access to journal article <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org>
5. Russian scientific online library, integrated with Russian index of scientific citation (ПИИЦ) <https://elibrary.ru/defaultx.asp>
6. Scientific online library <https://cyberleninka.ru>
7. Site of ex-IELTS examiner with the information on visual descriptions <http://ielts-simon.com/ielts-help-and-english-pr/ielts-writing-task-1/>
8. Site with the necessary vocabulary for the description of visuals <https://www.ielts-mentor.com/48-ielts-vocabulary/vocabulary-for-academic-ielts-writing-task-1/528-vocabulary-for-academic-ielts-writing-task-1-part-1>
9. Description of graphs <https://www.ieltsbuddy.com/line-and-bar-chart.html>