Resources

MCLS Databases

* Require Martin County Library card number to access
* Most are accessible from outside of library
  + Gale Databases
  + Academic OneFile/ InfoTrac
  + Foundation Center \*in Blake library use only\*
  + LexisNexis \*in library use only\*

University/College Library Databases

* Require user to be a student or staff member of University or College; must have student id number or username and password
* Some have public usage that is limited, but this is unusual
  + JSTOR
  + CINAHL
  + Professional Journals

Other Resources

* Google Scholar (some full-text, some citations): scholar.google.com
* Library of Congress: loc.gov
* Knight Cite (free): www.calvin.edu/library/knightcite/?
* Easy Bib (has free version and paid version): www.easybib.com/v2/home

Frequently Used Terminology

Primary Sources

* Document or Artifact that was produced during time being studied or is otherwise a first-hand account
* Includes diaries, court testimony, autobiographies, or other witness accounts
* Mostly used in social sciences, with most frequent uses for History, Sociology, Archaeology/Anthropology, and Journalism

Secondary Sources

* Any resource that is not a first-hand account
* Includes all types of sources
* Used in every Academic Discipline

Peer Reviewed

* Most frequently used in Medical, Legal, and Science based disciplines
* Secondary sources
* Published in a legitimate professional paper
* Has been reviewed and approved by other professionals in the specific field

References/Citations/Bibliography Styles- Most Commonly Used

APA (American Psychology Association) - used for the sciences, textbooks, and most of academia.

MLA (Modern Language Association) - used for the humanities, mostly linguistics, literature, and media and cultural studies among others.

Chicago/Turabian (created by Kate Turabian and published by University of Chicago) - business, history, and fine arts.

Primary vs Secondary Sources  
Write the correct source type for each example.

1. Witness testimony recorded in a court of law in 1962 Mississippi is being used to do research on the 1960s Civil Rights Movement. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. An academic journal on shamanistic medical practices in Borneo is being used to write a research paper. The author of the academic article lived in Borneo for 20 years, but not among the people they were writing about. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. A diary written by a young woman living through the 1793 Yellow Fever epidemic in Philadelphia is being used by a researcher in historical epidemiology. The researcher is not looking for information about the young woman’s experiences, but rather her second hand account of quarantine practices. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Who goes where?

Choose the appropriate resource for the request.

1. You need assistance with formatting the bibliography on your paper. You have already looked at the appropriate style manual and still need help.  
   a. go to Easy Bib or Knight Cite, and see if they can help   
   b. ask your teacher   
   c. go out during a full moon wearing twelve layers of clothing and ask Rumpelstiltskin for assistance
2. You are looking for articles for your class on New Age Lycanthropy in the Biology Department.   
   a. check Google Scholar to look for citations to get the titles of the articles you want, then look at the databases available through the library to see if they’re available  
   b. call the Library of Congress to see if they can just email you the articles  
   c. you don’t believe in the existence of articles as they are a figment of our imagination
3. You are looking for multimedia resources that you can use RIGHT NOW because your paper is due tomorrow.   
   a. go to the library of congress’ website to see what they have available, and check our databases for some. You also make sure to check the credibility of any other resources you find online  
   b. stare blankly into space for 15 minutes and then do cartwheels through a bunch of daisies  
   c. ask the teacher for an extension

Is this website a credible resource? Check in 60 seconds!

* Type of domain should match type of content
  + .com : commercial (most websites)
  + .edu : university or educational organization
  + .mil : military
  + .gov : government sponsored or government maintained
  + .org = non-profit
* Check to see who published it to the website? Is it an agency that has an agenda, an individual, or a corporation? If a company is posting something about how their industry is fantastic for the whole world, and the environment, and unicorns love their product, they may have a bias. If an individual is writing it, look for an About Me or About Us page, or another link to their previous experience. If a person is writing about something that requires a special license and does not have that license, they may be less knowledgeable than someone that does. In the end, you decide if you think they are credible or not.
* When was it published? A medical article about the prevalence of smallpox would not be appropriate in a modern medical journal, but might be relevant for a history paper. If the topic is regarding a current event, then the date is especially important.
* Always check your sources. Scholarly content will ALWAYS have source information. If something is presented as scholarly and does not provide source information, it is an opinion piece and not viable for most academic research. Always check the source information provided to ensure that what is being quoted is credible, accurate, and has not been altered.
* On articles from academic journals, check to see if any other articles have cited it as well. This way, you can see if anyone has confirmed or refuted its information.

Easy Bib has a related service that helps you with a step-by-step credibility check on websites:   
webeval.easybib.com