

Lecture Two: How to Make Research?

Once you have selected your topic, the next step consists of making some research. The first thing you will do is to use your computer or phone and go straight to Google to find answers to your questions. Let us say you have found the following sources. According to you, which of these might be reliable sources of information?

- Wikipedia
- Books
- Academic Publishers such as Rutledge, Oxford University Press, or SAGE
- Social Media sites like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Youtube, or Tiktok
- Research databases such as Research Gtates, Google Scholars, Google Books,Z-library, JSTOR, Web of Science, ScienceDirect, Scopus, and ERIC
- Peer-reviewed research journals
- Personal websites like blogs
- Forums
- Government sites like World Health Organization (WHO)
- Doctorate dissertations
- Web pages ending with .org or .edu

Any person can post whatever s/he likes on the internet, hence, falsifying the found information. For this reason, the information seeker should be careful as to the reliability, relevance, and consistency of the source before using it (Goldman et al., 2012; Walraven et al., 2009). As a case in point, Wikipedia, which is according to a survey undertaken by Knight and Pryke (2012) the seventh most visited website in the world, is, unlike other encyclopaedias, neither written nor evaluated by experts in the concerned field. Its reliability is, thus, threatened since it is open for any volunteer to modify the content (Knight & Pryke, 2012). Therefore, do not take for granted any piece of information you find and instead favour books, research papers that have gone

through a peer review process and have been published by academic journals, government websites, or doctorate dissertations rather than personal social media accounts.

Practice:

Choose some of the reliable databases or websites listed above and start researching the topic you selected. Each member of the group can choose a database to find books or articles on your topic.