

Reinert-Alumni Library

Research Road Map

Consider the source

The information wheel at right illustrates the variety of sources available from the Library. These can vary from:

- Brief to book-length
- Hours to *years* in production
- Popular opinion to original research
- General to academic audience
- Broad to narrow in scope
- Introductory to highly advanced
- Open websites to paid subscriptions

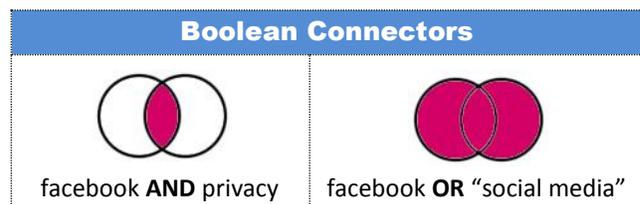
Depending on your assignment, some sources may be more suitable than others.



Choosing a topic

Choose a topic that interests you, and be prepared to broaden or narrow the scope as you go. Before you jump in, think about the search terms you will use and how they should be combined. Consider this topic: “Are online social networks eroding privacy?” Ask yourself:

- What are the 2 or 3 main concepts?
- What are keywords or phrases for each?
- How should keywords be combined?
Use AND to intersect, use OR for more.



What is JaySearch?

[JaySearch](#) is the Creighton Libraries’ search engine (catalog). Think “Google” for library sources:

- Find books, articles, videos, and more with a single search.
- Refine your results by type of resource, publication date, and other options.
- Find sources from a mix of subject areas and fields of study.

What if less is more?



Check out the [Research Guides](#)! You'll find library resources specific to subjects in the Arts & Sciences and Business, as an alternative to JaySearch:

- Find recommended databases for journal articles
- Find academic subject encyclopedias
- Contact a Librarian for research assistance

What are the Five Ws?

Evaluating your sources is a critical part of the research process. Consider the Five Ws:

Who	Who is the author? They should be qualified to write about the topic.
What	What information is provided? Materials should be relevant for your purpose.
Where	Where does the information appear on the Information Wheel?
When	When was the source published? Currency matters unless your interest is historical.
Why	Why was the source published? Is the purpose is to sell, persuade, entertain, or inform?

What is a peer-reviewed journal?

Peer-reviewed journals (unlike magazines and news media) provide research articles that have been screened for publication by the author's peers. In college, students are encouraged to use scholarly, peer-reviewed journals



Can a Librarian help me with my bibliography?



Yes. Knowing how to cite your sources correctly is a difficult but essential skill. Our website offers help with [How to Cite Your Sources](#), including [RefWorks](#). RefWorks is a free bibliographic manager to collect citations in the cloud and automatically generate a bibliography.

How can I get help from the Library?



Visit us in the Research Center on the main level. We offer consultations on a drop-in basis, or by appointment through the Research Assistance Program (RAP). You can also call us at (402) 280-2227, email askus@creighton.edu, or chat with us via the library website. Don't stress! We're here to help.