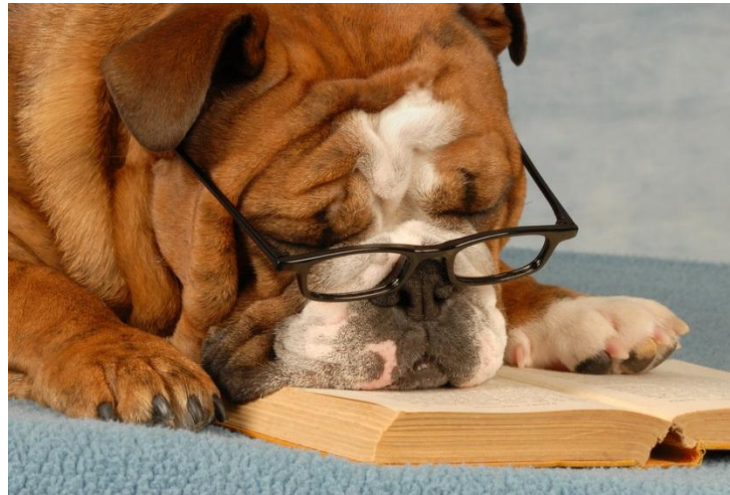


# SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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# You will learn about:

- Different types of information sources
- Types of information available through the library and the internet
- How to choose the best resource for your research



# Flow of information

When searching for information it is always important to keep in mind the information timeline. Different topics will require different types of information sources.



Day of Event	Next Day	Weeks after	Months after	Years after
<b>Social media and TV reports</b> broadcast instant information on unfolding events	<b>Newspaper articles and TV and radio reports</b> continue coverage of recent events	<b>Magazine articles</b> and blogs offer facts and opinions	Scholars begin to analyze the impact of events and publish articles in <b>academic journals</b>	Experts compile and analyze information in <b>books</b> . Established events are summarized in <b>encyclopedias</b>

# Web resources

The Web has become the largest repository of information available to the public and plays an important role in research- for academics and for everyday life. Keep in mind that not everything is available on the web.

Websites can be very good information sources, if you know what to look for. You can find up-to-the-minute news, information on current events, controversial topics and more. Websites allow you to get information direct from companies, organizations, and the government.

Anyone can publish on the internet though, and information can be biased, inaccurate, or outdate. You must evaluate each site carefully.

# Web Resources

Information on the web comes in different domains, which can help you determine the type of information. You can determine the domain by looking at the web address (URL).

- .com = Commercial
  - [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)
  - [www.magportal.com](http://www.magportal.com)
- .org = Organizational
  - [www.asPCA.org](http://www.asPCA.org)
  - [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)
- .edu = Educational
  - [www.wmcc.edu](http://www.wmcc.edu)
  - [www.plymouth.edu](http://www.plymouth.edu)
- .gov = Governmental
  - [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)
  - [www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov)



# Periodicals

- Periodicals are sources of information that are published periodically—that is, on a regular basis, on regular intervals. (daily, weekly, monthly, etc)
- Usually the term applies to newspapers, magazines, and scholarly/academic journals.
- They can be found in print, online, or through library databases.

# Periodicals

- Newspapers cover current events and are usually regional. They are intended to be read by people in a certain region or area. Many newspapers are published daily.
- Newspapers are good sources for regional information, current or historical events. They also are good for editorials, expert or popular opinions.
- Examples in print:
  - Berlin Daily Sun
  - Littleton Courier
- Newspapers in databases:
  - ProQuest Central
  - Ebscohost Newspaper Source



# Magazines

- Magazines are generally about popular topics and current events and are intended for a general audience. These are non-scholarly resources. They are heavily illustrated and contain advertising. The articles are usually written by journalists, not scholarly experts.
- They can be found in print, online, and in library databases. Websites for magazines sometimes charge for access and may contain some different articles than what is published in print.
- Ebscohost databases and ProQuest Central contain magazine articles.
- Print magazines at the Fortier library include
  - Bon Apetit
  - Consumer Reports
  - Economist
  - Forbes



# Journals

- Journals are periodicals that publish articles and research in specific academic or scholarly fields. They are written by scholars and experts for other scholars in their field.
- Many scholarly journals are peer-reviewed. Articles are reviewed and approved by other experts in the field before being published.
- Journal articles are written in scholarly language and often assume the reader has background knowledge in the field.
- Journal articles have extensive bibliographies.
  - You can use the bibliographies to find other sources on that topic.
- You can find journal articles in print at the Fortier Library or in library databases.
  - Examples in Print:
    - American Journal of Nursing
    - Zero to Three
- **Journal articles are key sources of information for academic assignments!**

# Books

- For research at the college level, you want to use more academic books, rather than popular books like novels and pop-culture non-fiction. Academic books are written by scholars and researchers, have extensive bibliographies, and have been edited and reviewed by other experts in the field.
- Books take a long time to be published, so if you are writing about current events or culture, you may not find what you are looking for.
- Books are great to use when:
  - You are looking for general information or an overview on a topic.
  - You need established facts or theories.
  - You need historical information.

# Books

- Books can be found in print or electronically.
- Use the Library Catalog to find books in print. For items only in the Fortier Library, make sure to limit to only White Mountains Community College.
  - <http://library.ccsnh.edu>
- The library also has access to eBooks.
  - Ebscohost eBooks
  - For free, out of copyright books to download, check out Project Gutenberg.
    - [www.gutenberg.org](http://www.gutenberg.org)

# Reference

- Reference materials are information sources that offer concise, fact based information on a topic. They are great for background information and can be helpful in finding other sources on a topic or for developing keywords.
- Reference sources include encyclopedias, dictionaries, and fact books.
- They can be found in print or through library databases.
- For online reference materials try:
  - Credo Reference

# What do you need?

- Now that you know about the different sources of information, you should be able to determine which ones will be best for your research.
  - Each topic requires different sources, and choosing a variety of sources will enhance your argument and provide the best support.
  - Think about what you are trying to learn and write about and pick the information sources that will best help you.
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- Next we'll learn about searching for and finding information.