

General advice for online research in **3 EASY STEPS**. There is more to online research than Google! Of particular importance in online research is determining the **depth** and the **authority** of your source.

- ☺ Look for sites that have articles by authors with acceptable credentials, advisory boards of known scholars, affiliations with institutions such as universities, professional organizations, denominational or organizational headquarters, think tanks, etc.
- ☹ Avoid sites that appear to be the work of one person, are anonymous, have obvious presentation problems (disorganization, misspellings) or are on free hosts with excessive advertising.

1. **General and preliminary searching.** Use Google, Wisenut, Dogpile, Alltheweb. Wikipedia.com, the free content encyclopedia might be interesting to consult, but it is unacceptable as a cited source.

- Consider the Web site domain. Regard .org and .edu Web sites ahead of .com sites.
- Do not assume that the first 2 pages displayed by the search engine are what you need.
- Blogs, wikis and some sites that might not be acceptable for citation, might still be useful to read to help steer your research and think about your topic .

2. **Selective research.** Find an authoritative site that links to quality sources. For example, for religious topics, try Rutgers University's Virtual Religion Index.

<http://virtualreligion.net/vri/> or the University of Michigan's Internet Public Library links to religion. <http://www.ipl.org/div/subject/browse/hum80.00.00/>

Many library homepages have sites that have been selected by librarians. You might find these by searching the homepage of public or academic libraries. For example, Columbus Metropolitan Library has select reference links to religion and mythology.

<http://www.columbuslibrary.org/ebranch/index.cfm?pageid=18&parentid=549>

Try Google Scholar, Google books, findarticles.com, and the Directory of Open Access Journals—[www.doaj.org](http://www.doaj.org).

3. **Articles online.** By using OPLIN.ORG Ohio Public Library Information Network, a researcher can access full-text articles from known journals, magazines, and reference sources online. These articles can be printed out, or e-mailed to your address.

Go to the OPLIN site. Enter your Ohio zip code (RBC is 43029). Choose Research Databases. Academic Search Premier is a good first choice. You can also search an alphabetic list, for example, go to R and choose the EBSCOhost Religion and Philosophy Database. When the

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search screen opens up, be sure to click the full-text box. Enter your search terms.

RBC students can get public library cards through the Mechanicsburg Public Library, Plain City Public Library, or they can use our CML Corporate Card account. This information is available in the handout “Magazine and Journal Research” which is available online at:

<http://www.rosedale.edu/library/MagJournalResearch.pdf>

If you want to keep up-to-date with online research, consult the RBC library blog

[www.xanga.com/libraryservices](http://www.xanga.com/libraryservices)