

# Guidelines for Internet Research

Always consider the source before using information. The following links are some examples of vetted and trusted Internet links:

- Scholarpedia.com
- Encyclopedia.com
- Questia.com/library
- Infoplease.com/encyclopedia

Your local library or school library may also have access to a number of computer databases where you can search for accurate information. Ask your local reference librarian or school librarian if you need help vetting your research!

*But what about Wikipedia?*

- Wikipedia is a great place to begin your research, especially if you want to get a broad view of what your topic or research project entails. Well-sourced articles written according to Wikipedia guidelines should have citations listed at the bottom of each page (for example, these [references](#) for concrete). Savvy readers can use Wikipedia as an information hub to follow the link trail to more expert or authoritative websites, and students can likewise find useful primary sources through Wikipedia. However, don't rely exclusively on Wikipedia for crucial information in a research project

Other things to consider when performing research:

- *Use websites that reference scientific journals or original sources.* Always follow the references and citations! In a scholarly article, the list of scientific journals being referenced is found at the bottom of the page.
- *Consider the purpose of a website.* A site whose purpose is to gossip, heavily endorse a product, celebrate an individual, or makes outrageous claims may present information in a manner that promotes their purpose rather than with an unbiased view.
- *View the type of ads on a websites.* Websites with advertisements that make unreasonable claims (for example, "lose 10 lbs in 1 day!" or "get rich quick!") sometimes are not the most reputable websites.
- *Searching for the website's URL in quotes:* This trick will show which sites reference this website. Those sites will give you some guidance as to the reputability of the site you are viewing.