

How Do I Find Appropriate Resources?

Finding good resources is a matter of knowing a bit about your topic first—you've done some preliminary research, so you know a bit about your topic already (whew—one step down!)

In the spaces below, **please write some KEY WORDS** that will help you with searching for resources.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ |

Now, when you are searching for information, you can search for **MORE** than just the topic words—for example, if your topic is *Tahiti*, that is not the only word you can use to search—you can also search for *Bora Bora*, *Tahitian Islands*, *French Polynesia*, *activities to do in Tahiti*, etc. The more key words you have, the more specific your search will be!

Wondering where to search? Well, you have a few options. Some are better than others.

- Magazines and other periodicals (journals)
- Newspapers
- Books
- Encyclopedias and other reference materials
- Databases (Wilson Web, Infotrac)
- Educational or governmental websites (.edu or .gov)
- SMCC Resources (via Media & Technology Center) - World Book Online, MEL, MCLS

THE INTERNET IS NOT ALWAYS YOUR FRIEND! Remember, **ANYONE** can post **ANYTHING** on the internet—just because it is out there doesn't mean it is true, reputable, or useable. **EVALUATE** all your resources by cross-checking—does the information you found appear anywhere else? Use the quick checklist below to help you decide if the internet sites you find are worth using.

- Author and site sponsor are known and reputable
- Proper spelling and grammar
- Site is .edu or .gov, **not** .com
- Information is current within the last year or so
- Information is fair, objective, likely, reasonable, and supported
- Bibliography of resources is listed
- Information is supported by other resources (can you cross-reference it?)

Stay Away! from the following sources:

- ✗ Wikipedia
- ✗ Trip Advisor
- ✗ Websites ending in .com
- ✗ Blogs, comments, reviews

Use the following types of websites:

- ✓ State-sponsored travel websites (e.g. Michigan.org)
- ✓ Reputable news websites
- ✓ Online travel brochures

Use a **WIDE** variety of resources—don't use **JUST** books, or **JUST** the magazine articles. Look everywhere—use many resources. And don't expect to find exactly what you're looking for on the first try!