

# Quick tips for Quality Research

Search strategies and assessing resource quality

# Search Engine

vs

# Online Databases



- Anyone can post with little, if any, editorial review
- Contains content on almost any topic, so searches result in overwhelming numbers of webpages
- You can find up-to-the-minute information
- Much of the content on the internet is free
- Use for background information or information from the government or other specialty organizations



- Materials in library databases have been reviewed by editors or gone through the peer review process
- Often tailored toward a specific audience or subject
- Due to the review process, information is not up-to-the-minute
- Requires a subscription - access APS databases through Canvas
- Use for credible, scholarly articles

# Search Strategies for Search Engines and Databases

Search Engines	Databases
Change word order: <b>blue sky</b> vs <b>sky blue</b> example.	Use quotations around words to keep them together. <b>"materials that rot"</b> example
Scan search results for different words to use in research: <b>materials that rot/biodegradable</b> example.	Use words like <b>and</b> or <b>not</b> to refine your search.
Use the minus sign or plus sign to narrow results: <b>beetle -insect</b> example, <b>beetle +virginia</b> example	Click on <b>peer review</b> for the most scholarly information.
Use quotations around words to keep them together. <b>"materials that rot"</b>	Search in multiple databases. Different databases search different resources. Use Gale Cengage Learning for the widest search.
Use <a href="#">NoodleTools</a> to cite your sources. Other online citation tools may not create accurate citations. NoodleTools is integrated with the online databases.	Access databases from any Canvas course using the <i>APS Library Resources</i> link.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>If you use different citation website, use <a href="#">Purdue University</a> or <a href="#">The University of Maryland</a> to confirm accuracy.</li></ul>	You know the website you are using is a database if your url contains words like: <i>ebscohost, gale, or britannica.</i>

## High Quality Resources

- Online Databases
- Government sites
- EDU sites
- .org sites - check for bias
- Documents found in Google Scholar



**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
CHECK YOUR  
SOURCES**

**Medium to low quality - Use for background, but include other *high quality* resources.**

- Blogs
- Hobbyist sites

## Do Not Use

- Articles from Wikipedia
- Anonymous articles
- Sites like: Answer, BuzzFeed, Quora
- Social Media sites



Date

Relevance

Accuracy

Motivation

Authority