

## RESEARCH TOOLS

For several assignments, especially speeches and debates in Public Speaking (Sp111) and Persuasive Speech (Sp 112), you will need to support your views with the opinions of experts and others who are closely related to the subject you are discussing. These days the most efficient research tools are online. Unfortunately the internet is overrun with information that is neither expert nor credible; anyone can develop a web site and post information they claim to be true and current, and no individual, group, or agency holds people accountable for information posted online.

*Please note: At this time, Wikipedia is not a dependably recommended source for primary information*

The following sites may help you find dependable background and **primary sources** on your subject, expert testimony to support your opinion. Keep in mind that YOU can hold sources accountable by seeking authors or organizations that take credit for their information and by paying attention to posted. Often URLs (web addresses) reveal the source or sponsor of the information. Maintaining a healthy skepticism may also prevent you from the trap of using unreliable information. Look for specifics, such as statistics, quotes, and facts from reputable agencies or individuals. Verify your findings by checking them against other sources. Finally, be alert to those groups and individuals characterized by a high level of emotionality and bias.

Before you begin, it will help you to check out *The Evaluating Online Resources Notebook*. <http://people.uis.edu/rschr1/valid.htm>. When you locate what seems to be a worthwhile source, check it against the University of California at Berkeley Library's *Evaluating Web Pages Techniques* <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Evaluate.html>

**SEARCH ENGINES:** These sites are fast and relatively comprehensive. Type in your subject, click, and the search engine will list a number of sources from which you select those that seem relevant and informative. You will want to note the author or sponsoring agency and exact URL (web address) for each site you use so that you can cite them in your speech and bibliography.

- Ask Jeeves <http://www.ask.com/> (allows you to type in a question rather than a key word)
- Electric Library [www.elibrary.com/](http://www.elibrary.com/)
- Google <http://www.google.com/>
- Excite <http://www.search.excite.com/>
- Yahoo <http://www.yahoo.com/>

*These last two produce different and higher quality scholarly search results, the first in particular, for searching academic material, such as journals, online:*

- Google Scholar <http://scholar.google.com>
- Teoma <http://www.teoma.com/>

**LIBRARY CATALOGS:** These sources will get you into the databases for various libraries. The Lane Community College Library now has the EBSCO database, a collection of full-text articles and abstracts from thousands of journals, newspapers, reference books, and source documents of academic, business, health, professional and general interest. Other full-text databases include SIRS Knowledge Source on critical social issues and *The Oregonian*. If the following databases do not offer full-text articles, you can stop by the library to check out the item.

- Eugene Public Library [www.ci.eugene.or.us/Library/](http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/Library/)
- Linn-Benton Community College Library <http://lib.linnbenton.edu/library/portal2.html>
- See especially EBSCO for primary sources: <http://0-web.ebscohost.com.library.lanec.edu/ehost/search?hid=116&sid=4c68ab97-4593-4e57-b612-113b53d28401%40sessionmgr103>
- University of Oregon Library System <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/>
- Oregon State University Library System <http://osulibrary.oregonstate.edu/>
- The Library of Congress (This includes scanned items, such as maps, photos, and sound recordings, related to U.S. history, culture, and politics.) [www.loc.gov/](http://www.loc.gov/)
- Internet Public Library <http://www.ipl.org/>

## **GOVERNMENT SITES:**

Many subjects discussed in speeches pertain to local, state, and federal policies. The following sites are databases that provide you with actual laws, documents, policies, statistics, and contacts relevant to your subject.

*Government, general:*

- <http://www.governmentguide.com/>
- <http://www.firstgov.gov>
- EuroDocs (links to scanned original documents and other historical sources from 24 European countries and city-states) <http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/eurodocs>
- The Avalon Project (offers historical documents, from documents of the Continental Congress to, for instance, the indictment of an American Taliban) <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/avalon.htm>

*Local Government:*

- City of Eugene <http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/>
- City of Albany <http://www.ci.albany.or.us/>
- City of Corvallis <http://www.ci.corvallis.or.us/>

*State of Oregon:*

- <http://www.state.or.us/>

*US Government:*

- Government links <http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/central/staff/ftdf.html>
- Government databases [http://www.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/db2.html](http://www.gpo.gov/su_docs/db2.html)
- Government documents: National Archives and Records Administration <http://www.nara.gov/>
- Government statistics: FedStats Home Page <http://www.fedstats.gov/>
- Crime and legal issues: National Institute of Justice <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/>
- Global security issues (declassified security information) <http://www.globalsecurity.org>

## **MISCELLANEOUS (and just for fun):**

- Best of everything: Pierro Scaruffi's Knowledge Base <http://www.scaruffi.com>