

**USE THIS**



**NOT THAT!**

It can be tricky finding the right resources in college. While you can find nearly anything on the Internet, how do you know if it's good information? This handy guide will help you figure out the difference between good, quality resources, and just plain bad ones.

Looking for: Background information on a topic

Use this: CQ Researcher, Points of View Reference Center

Not that: Wikipedia



Why: Wikipedia only provides a very basic amount of information on a given topic, and it is impossible to find out whether or not the author (or authors) of a Wikipedia article is an expert on the topic. CQ Researcher and Points of View are databases that provide detailed background information on a variety of topics written by professionals.

Looking for: A book to use for your research paper

Use this: The Vise Library catalog

Not that: Your textbook



Why: Professors often want you to do research outside of the textbooks and materials you use in class. Use the library catalog to find a book that isn't already on your class reading list.

Looking for: Scholarly medical and health information

Use this: ProQuest Health Resources, Health Reference Center Academic

Not that: Webmd.com, mayoclinic.org

Why: While the two websites provide basic info on common symptoms and illnesses, which may be helpful to the average Internet user, they do not provide scholarly articles or original research. Databases like ProQuest Health Resources and Health Reference Center Academic go a step beyond and provide scholarly articles that are appropriate for students in majors like biology and nursing.



**X-Ray**

Looking for: Business information and corporate data

Use this: Lexis-Nexis Academic, Hoover's Company Records

Not that: Google

Why: A lot of business and company information is proprietary, meaning that you can't find it unless you pay for it. Lexis-Nexis and Hoover's are databases that the library has paid subscriptions to, whereas Google is a free web browser. The information you find on the library's website will be more accurate than what you can find for free on the Internet.

Looking for: Articles for a paper

Use this: ProQuest Central, JSTOR, America: History and Life

Not that: articlesbase.com, findarticles.com, Google

Why: Professors want you to use scholarly articles written by experts or professionals when you do research. Databases such as ProQuest and JSTOR provide scholarly articles that you can trust, whereas websites such as articlesbase.com provide questionable articles which are very often not written by experts and are on popular topics. Stick with academic, college-appropriate material by using databases you can find on the Vise Library website.

