Library Research Skills -- Psychology

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1. **Evaluating Sources** - To identify scholarly and credible resources, you need to evaluate by considering the author, publisher, bias, currency, etc.

   a. Evaluating Sources: General Guidelines – Purdue University
      [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/conducting_research/evaluating_sources_of_information/general_guidelines.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/conducting_research/evaluating_sources_of_information/general_guidelines.html)

   b. Evaluating Digital Sources - Purdue website
      [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/conducting_research/evaluating_sources_of_information/evaluating_digital_sources.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/conducting_research/evaluating_sources_of_information/evaluating_digital_sources.html)

   c. VCC Library Research Tutorial - criteria for evaluating websites
      [https://library.vcc.ca/research/how-to-do-research/evaluating-websites/](https://library.vcc.ca/research/how-to-do-research/evaluating-websites/)

2. **Fake News**

   d. *How Fake News Goes Viral: A Case Study*  

   e. Fake News Infographic – IFLA  

   f. How do I spot fake news? (University of Toronto)  
      [https://onesearch.library.utoronto.ca/faq/how-do-i-spot-fake-news](https://onesearch.library.utoronto.ca/faq/how-do-i-spot-fake-news)

3. **The Information Cycle – How is information gathered and shared?**

   g. “The Information Cycle” from UCF Libraries  
      [https://vimeo.com/171415865](https://vimeo.com/171415865)

4. **The Research Process – Choosing a topic & conducting your search**

   **Choosing a Topic** - Select a topic that interests you – you will achieve better results.

   **Conducting your Search** - Research is not a linear process. You may discover that your topic is too broad, or too narrow, or that you are not able to find resources. Refine your search by trying a variety of keywords. If you are not able to find resources on your specific topic, consider the resources you have discovered, and alter your topic accordingly.

   **Identifying Keywords** - Keywords are the terms you will use in your search. You should use a variety of terms when searching the databases to achieve the best results possible.

   *As you conduct your research and read materials on your topic, you will learn new terminology that will enable you to conduct better searches. Always return to the databases for another look once you know more about your topic.*
5. Finding Resources in the VCC Library Discovery Layer – EDS

*EDS* lists all resources available in the Library. Call numbers are provided for items located on the shelves, and links are provided for electronic resources.

- Go to the Library website: library.vcc.ca
- Click on Books, DVDs, & More tab

![Screen Shot](image)

- Enter keyword(s) e.g. bipolar disorder
- **Browse results** to see if your keywords have resulted in appropriate resources. You may need to try a new search to yield better results.

- **Look for different formats** in the results list – Book, eBook, Academic Journal, News, Periodical

- **Limit your Results using Resource Types**
  - Books, DVDs
  - eBooks
  - Academic Journals
  - News
  - Magazines

- Choose an item, and click on the title to see the full record
- Email the record/item to yourself, choosing APA citation style

**Note:** author/editor, title, publisher, place of publication, year of publication

*You will use this information to build your References list (bibliography).*

Article indexes let you search for articles on your topic using keywords, titles, authors, subjects, etc. The index provides a list of citations and often the full text of the article is attached.

Go to Resource Guide for Psychology
Click on the Top Picks
Select PsycINFO

1. Enter 2-3 of your keywords in the search box e.g. cognitive behavioral therapy; addiction

2. **Limit your results to:**
   - Linked Full Text
   - Publication Year from 2014 to 2019
   - Peer Reviewed
   - Language: English
   - Document Type: Journal Article

3. Review results and select a record by clicking on the TITLE

4. You'll see the full record for this article. It provides all the information you will need to identify and cite the article in your References list.

5. Note: Subjects – these terms are assigned by librarians and are selected from the PsycINFO Thesaurus. Using the Subjects terms is a great way to find highly relevant articles!

6. Choose a full text article and email it to yourself. Remember to select the APA citation style!
7. Finding Journal Articles – other databases

Repeat the same search using the databases:

PsycARTICLES
Academic Search Premier
JSTOR

8. Evaluating Websites & Google

1. Questions you should ask when evaluating websites
http://library.vcc.ca/research/how-to-do-research/evaluating-websites/


2. Search Google using Advanced Search
   - Go to www.google.ca
   - From Settings choose Advanced Search*
   - In the all these words box, enter cbt and addiction .edu
   - Then narrow your results by… site or domain
   - For last update, select Past year
   - Click Advanced Search

Questions:

What is the URL (address) for the site? Explain the different upper level domain codes.

Who wrote it?

When was the last update?

Would you use this website? Why/why not?
1. Review these two websites and answer the questions that follow:

*Cognitive Behavioural Therapy CAMH*

*Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Addiction*
https://www.verywellmind.com/cognitive-behavioral-therapy-for-addiction-21953

a. Describe the bias in each article
b. Which website would you use for an assignment and why?
c. How could you ensure that the information presented is accurate and credible?

2. Find a peer-reviewed article on cognitive behavioral therapy using the PsycInfo database and provide the following details:

a. Title of article
b. Author(s) and affiliation
c. Title of the journal
d. Year of publication
e. Volume and issue number
f. Page numbers
g. DOI (if it is provided in the PsycInfo record)