



Al-Mustaqbal University

College of Science



Scientific Thinking and Research Skills

Third Year Students / 1st Semester

Types of Information Sources, continued

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Biochemistry Department

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Use a Book

- When looking for lots of information on a topic
- To put your topic in context with other important issues
- To find historical information
- To find summaries of research to support an argument

Use an Encyclopedia

- When looking for background information on a topic
- When trying to find key ideas, important dates or concepts

Two Types of Encyclopedias

- General Encyclopedias – provide concise overviews on a wide range of topics
- Subject-Specific Encyclopedias – contain in-depth information focusing on one field of study.

Characteristics of General and Subject-Specific Encyclopedias

- Encyclopedia articles give background information.
- Encyclopedia articles usually include bibliographies (works cited).
- Encyclopedia articles provide information to help you narrow your topic.

Use a Handbook

- For finding factual information to answer specific questions. Also, you can use a handbook to verify data or solve problems in a subject area.

Use a Journal

- When doing scholarly research
- To find out what has been studied on your topic
- To find bibliographies that point to other relevant research

Use a Magazine

- To find information or opinions about popular culture
- To find up-to-date information about current events
- To find general articles for people who are not necessarily specialists about the topic

Use a Newspaper

- To find current information about international, national and local events
- To find editorials, commentaries, expert or popular opinions

Use a Database or Index

- When you want to find articles on your topic in magazines, journals, or newspapers

Use the WWW

- To find current information
- AT YOUR OWN RISK!