



HACC

Central Pennsylvania's Community College
LIBRARY & INFORMATION RESOURCES

Evaluating information sources

Before diving into the information pool, you need to decide which type of source will contain the kind of information you need.

Books

Use books to deepen your information pool with:

- an overview of your broad topic
- a source of historical context
- an in-depth explanation due to their greater length.

Periodicals

Use articles from journals, magazines, and newspapers to freshen your information pool with:

- current, up-to-date information on your topic.
- detailed information on minor topics that would be too brief for a book.

Internet Sites:

Use information from internet sites to expand your information pool with:

- resources from around the world
- details not available in more formal publications
- a quick snapshot or summary of your topic
- definitions of unfamiliar words or concepts
- information from professional associations or special interest groups, (for example: American Society of Silversmiths or American Diabetes Association)