



ROBERT E. WEBBER INSTITUTE FOR WORSHIP STUDIES

Overview of Library Resources

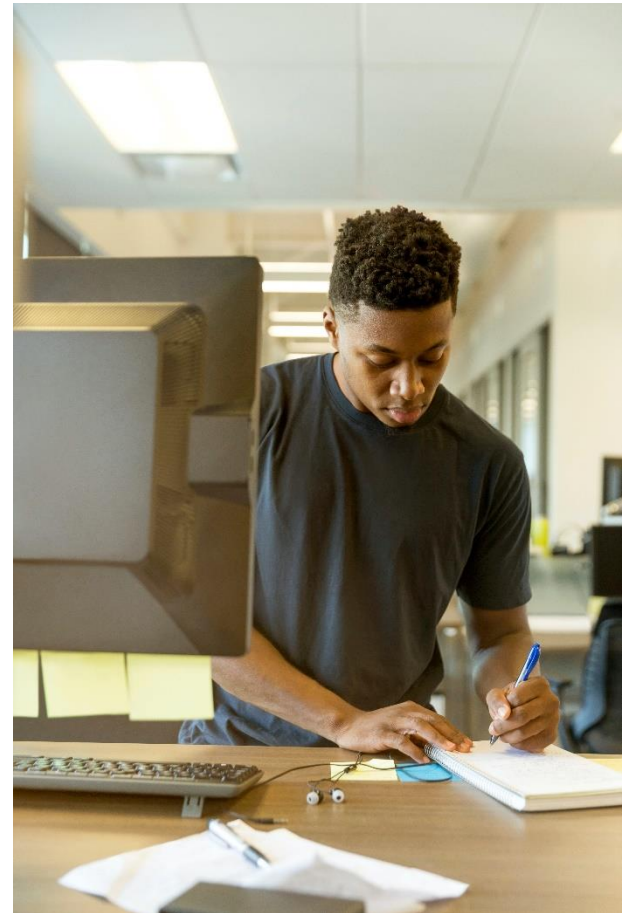
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Overview of Library Resources

The definitions in this tutorial will help you select and evaluate resources that fit the criteria your instructor has requested for your research.

This tutorial will also help explain why not all information you need can be found on the Internet and why library resources are essential to your research.



Two Basic Sources of Information

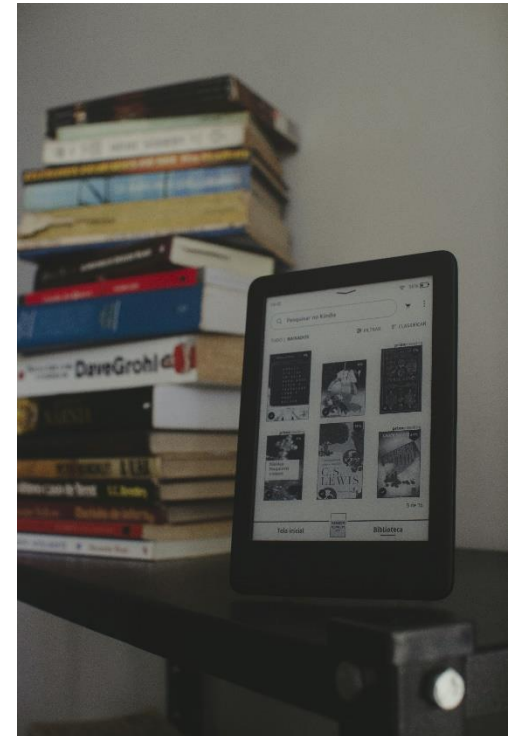
- ***Primary Sources***: Contemporary accounts of events recorded in diaries, letters, memoirs, journals, speeches, manuscripts, interviews, etc. They may also include photographs, audio or video recordings, or original literary or theatrical works.
- ***Secondary Sources***: Materials about the primary sources that interpret, assign value, or draw conclusions about events.

Two Basic Types of Library Materials

Most libraries offer materials that have been purchased by the library but are free to users.

Physical materials reside on-site. These may include books, media, journals, archives, etc.

Online materials usually can be retrieved on a computer wherever there is Internet access. These may include ebooks, streaming media, journal articles, websites, digital archives, etc.



Types of Online Library Resources

All online material is *not* freely available on the Internet. Most libraries provide access to online resources that would charge fees to individuals.

- ***Subscription resources*** are selected and paid for by the library. Users must login to have free access. Vendor restrictions apply to use.
 - Atlas Databases
 - eBooks on EBSCO
 - TREN (Theological Research Exchange Network)
- ***Free (open access) resources*** do not require subscriptions. Libraries collect links to reliable and scholarly sites organized by topics of interest to their users.

Types of Subscription Resources

Subscription resources are aggregated by vendors from proprietary sources and sold in packages to libraries with licensed agreements for usage.

- *Databases* are collections of information materials such as journal articles, abstracts, ebooks, newspapers, images, streaming media, etc.
- *Indexes* are listings of citations, references, websites, documents, etc. pointing to the sources where full-text materials are found.


Types of Free Internet Resources

- *Website*: a group of pages maintained by a person or organization. The domain type may help indicate reliability and accuracy. For example,
 - .edu = academic institution with scholarly information
 - .gov = federal government site
 - .org = nonprofit, may include bias by advocacy groups
 - .com = commercial, may be biased to make sales
- *Wiki*: website that is collaboratively edited; content depends upon credibility of the editors and authors.
- *Periodical*: Publications of professional organizations, newspapers, news services, etc. Accuracy may depend upon the credibility of sources used and bias of writers.
- *Social Media*: Includes personal opinions, not verifiable.



Evaluating Information Resources

- *Scholarly vs Popular*: Scholarly resources are written by experts in the field and supported by research, while popular resources are written for general audiences and usually lack references to support assertions.
- *Refereed (or peer-reviewed)*: Articles are reviewed for credibility and quality by authorities in the field of study before acceptance for publication.

Limit To 

Full Text

Scholarly (Peer Reviewed)
Journals

Image Quick View

Library Resources Provided by IWS

- [Catalog](#): A database of more than 10,000 physical materials available on-site from the IWS library.
- [Atlas Databases](#): An online index of 1.6 million resources on religion (Atla RDB) and a full-text collection of more than 540 major religion and theology journals (Atlas PLUS). *Not all citations available in full text.*
- [eBooks on EBSCO](#): Books on worship studies and Bible commentaries that can be accessed online.
- [IWS Thesis Collection](#): Search for digital copies of IWS theses in the library catalog (hosted on Populi Library).
- [Additional Resources](#): The library has selected additional Internet resources that may help in your research.