

FILTERING INFORMATION

Because today's world can easily overwhelm us with information, it's important to skillfully filter for that which is most reliable.

PRINT SOURCES

Because anyone can put inaccurate or misleading information online, books and periodicals are relatively reliable. This is so because publishers, having an economic interest in ensuring accuracy, filter the information. Common examples are books and periodicals.

ONLINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscription databases, like [ABC-CLIO](#)[®] or [EBSCO](#)[®] or [GALE CENGAGE](#)[®], also have an economic interest in accurate information, so they *filter*.

This does not mean, though, that you don't have to filter further.

SEARCH ENGINES

Filter for domains (e.g. *edu, org, net, gov, com*). You can do this in [GOOGLE](#)[®] *advanced search* and in [GOOGLE SCHOLAR](#)[®]. With [YIPPY](#)[®] you can also filter by using sub-topics, sometimes called "clouds." It can also filter for domains. Specialized search engines (e.g. philosophy) exist too.

PRIMARY SOURCES

No matter how skillfully you use print or online sources, **YOUR OWN JUDGMENT IS THE FINAL FILTER**. This is why primary sources (not filtered) are usually best, especially in controversial or debatable areas.