Quality Information Resources Checklist

Scholarly or Academic Journals

😊 specific academic information, often the result of research
😊 published at regular intervals – monthly, quarterly even annually.
😊 articles written by experts in their fields, academics or practitioners
😊 include reference list of sources used
😊 formal publication and peer review process (articles reviewed by other experts for accuracy, quality of research - content reliable – gold standard)
😊 Mostly available electronically
😊 Formal peer-review process can delay publication of very fast-moving topics

Books

😊 contents pages and indexes to help you locate your topic quickly
😊 great for well established ideas and theories - broad topic coverage
😊 include reference list of sources used
😊 reviewed by editorial panel prior to publication
😊 many available in ebook format as well as print
😊 books can take up two years to be written and published

Trade and Professional Journals

😊 contain specialist information for people working in the area
😊 published regularly, often weekly or monthly
😊 contain industry news, exhibitions, job adverts as well as mostly short articles
😊 good for fast moving news, developments, etc
😊 print or electronic format
😊 not peer reviewed - but will be written by people working the area
Magazines

😊 aimed at the general public - but could be useful
😊 published at frequent intervals - weekly, monthly
😊 great for fast moving topics, written by journalists rather than experts
😊 mostly available in print rather than electronically
😊 many have associated websites

Newspapers

😊 brilliant for current affairs, historical research and public opinion
😊 can provide a local as well as national perspective of events
😊 can provide different perspectives, tabloids and broadsheets are written for different audiences
😊 searchable online, through European NewsStream
😊 mostly published daily, with special Saturday and Sunday editions/variants
😊 not academic or peer reviewed
😊 can be biased

Websites

😊 brilliant for quick facts, government information, organisations’ websites, etc
😊 no one search engine will give you all the information – use more than one
😊 learn to read web addresses it will give some indication of quality/reliability -
    .ac.uk – UK academic site
    .ed - US academic site
    .gov. uk - UK government site

😊 always, always, always evaluate your results – any idiot can write for the internet

More help? Contact Kate Stephenson - kate.stephenson@solent.ac.uk