

English 102 09Fa

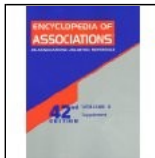
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Finding Associations & Organizations



Organizations exist that **advocate a specific position** on almost any current issue.

Info they provide is often **biased** but still valuable for understanding an **issue's complexity**


The *Encyclopedia of Associations* in the **Ref Collection** indexes over **23,000 nonprofit American organizations**.

Keyword index easy to use

Info for each organization includes:

- organization **purpose**
- membership
- publications
- contact information**
- website**

Google Search tip for finding **organizations** advocating for a particular side of an issue:



- Type the issue words/phrase in the **2nd Search Box of Google Advanced Search**
- Scroll **down** the page until you see **Search within a site or domain**
- Enter **.org** in the box; **Search**

[Comments \(0\)](#)

Academic Search Engines

Using reviewed and rated websites is a good way to get quality info on the web.

On the Library's Search Engines page, links under the gold heading *Academic Resources & Tools* **DO** have these quality controls.


Chadwick Library's Search Engines : Academic Resources & Tools

Other sources of quality websites...

- Quality websites can also be found in many of the databases that we have already used


Note: These databases require an IWC username and password for access. Once connected, scroll down the list to the database number indicated in red.

Britannica Online #11



OVRC #2


WorldCat #10



- UChannel** (University Channel): "Access to a world of ideas" --- public affairs video lectures
- ProCon.org** - "a nonprofit public charity that promotes critical thinking, education, and informed citizenship." These "sites present controversial issues in a straightforward, nonpartisan, primarily pro-con format."
- WorldCat Tutorial**
Search for quality websites using WorldCat.
View in SLIDE SHOW.

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Finding Laws



GovTrack.us yields the status of federal legislation, legislators' voting records, plus info on Members of Congress, congressional committees, and the Congressional Record. It is a free, non-governmental tracking service.

The U. of Chicago Library has a **topical list** of links to laws.

Published every 6 yrs., the U. S. Code is the arrangement of U.S. laws by broad subjects into 50 titles. In between editions, annual cumulative supplements are published. **Search U. S. code.**

THOMAS maintained by the Library of Congress makes federal legislative info freely available to the public. THOMAS has expanded to include:

- Bills, Resolutions
- Activity in Congress
- Congressional Record
- Schedules, Calendars
- Committee Information
- Presidential Nominations
- Treaties
- Government Resources
- For Teachers

Iowa laws and legislators


Congressional Digest provides independent monthly debates featuring PRO/CON controversies in Congress. Also find sources, contacts, & web links. From 1921-present, find indexing and the **full-text of the Congressional Digest in EBSCOhost.**

[EBSCOhost on-campus link](#)

[EBSCOhost off-campus/dorm link](#)

[Comments \(0\)](#)

Evaluating Websites



Although the Internet is a good way to get a sense of what's new "out there," you will need to go further and do some investigating before using info from the web in your papers. Critically evaluate each website by considering the following (the

Statistics

Online Sources:

- [The 2009 Statistical Abstract](#)

Statistics are like a bikini. What they

Databases vs. Web

Note Database and Website differences.

See how a 'real' survivor escapes [Research Island](#) at UCLA.

THEN check out **Chadwick Library's** survivor sources via this LibGuide!

Library Databases	Web
Only for IWC students	Anyone can use
Costs Library lots of money	Mostly free
Articles from newspapers, magazines, journals, etc.	Websites

CAPOW method):

Currency - Has the page been updated recently enough so that it reflects the most current data? Is there a date to indicate that this page is regularly maintained and updated?

Authority - Is the website based on reputable and reliable sources? Is there a bibliography? Are there citations? Is the author of the website an expert on the subject? Do other info sources corroborate?

Purpose - Is the site intended for commercial, informational, educational, persuasive, entertainment use, or a hoax?

Objectivity - Is the website free of bias? Who is responsible for the website? Are you getting an educated version of this topic, or is it just opinion?

Writing Style - Is it free of typos and errors? Does the page have a professional look and is it free of advertising? Are there links to other worthwhile websites?

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Authoritative and comprehensive summary of statistics on the social, political and economic areas of the United States

- [FedStats](#)
 Links to statistics compiled and reported by 100+ U.S. federal government agencies
- [State Data Center of Iowa](#)
 The sources for population, housing, business and government stats about Iowa
- [Bureau of Justice Statistics Home page](#)
 Data on crime, criminal offenders, victims of crime, and the operation of justice systems at all levels of government.
- [National Center for Education Statistics \(NCES\) Home Page, a part of the U.S. Department of Education](#)
 Primary federal entity for collecting and analyzing data related to education.
- [NCHS Health Statistics](#)
 U.S. health related data from government sources
- [Sports Reference](#)
 A combination of sites providing top notch statistics and resources for sports fans everywhere.

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Organized & indexed for precise retrieval of info on a topic	Long list of unorganized links
Search can be focused in precise ways: subject, date, type of source, peer reviewed	Search by keyword with limited focusing capabilities
Quality articles written by experts	Can be written by anyone
Citation info given	Citation info not always available
Authoritative & accurate info checked by experts	May be biased, unreliable, or even inaccurate
Updated frequently & dates included	May not say when site was created or updated
Purpose is to advance knowledge or scholarship	Purpose may be to sell service or product
Use for scholarly research but it may have a bias	Requires caution & evaluation when using

[Comments \(0\)](#)

Types of Evidence

Types of Evidence	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE	SOURCE
FACTS	Statements that can be verified objectively	George W. Bush was the 43 rd president of the United States	Final reports, encyclopedias
STATISTICS	Facts stated in numbers	According to the XX agency, 50%	Reference books, almanacs, news sources
EXPERT TESTIMONY	Information from a knowledgeable person who has studied or gained experience about the topic	According to information supplied by a representative.....	Scholarly materials, peer reviewed materials, books, government documents, quoted experts
FIRSTHAND OBSERVATION	Your own unbiased, accurate, eyewitness account	Interview	Your notes, your experiences

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