Finding Authoritative Information

**Academic Encyclopedias**

**Authority:**
- Authors are scholars
- Edited by professionals

**Useful for:**
- Background
- Overviews
- Getting Started

**Find them:**
- In Print - Reference Collection
- Online - Library Databases

**Books and e-Books**

**Authority:**
- Look for author’s credentials
- Look for publisher’s credentials

**Useful for:**
- In-depth info
- Historical perspective
- Leads to other sources

**Find them:**
- Library Book Catalog
- WorldCat database
- Google Books

**Academic Journals**

**Authority:**
- Authors are scholars
- Edited by professionals

**Useful for:**
- In-depth research
- Primary research

**Find them:**
- Online – Library Databases
- Google Scholar

**Popular Magazines**

**Authority:**
- Look for author’s credentials
- Edited by professionals
- Possibly influenced by ads

**Useful for:**
- Current events
- Popular opinion

**Find them:**
- Online – Library Databases
- Newsstands

**Web Sites**

**Authority:**
- Authors must be verified
- Sites may or may not be edited

**Useful for:**
- Background
- Overviews
- Getting started
- Links to other sources

**Find them:**
- Search engines
- Subject directories
- Recommendations

**People**

**Authority:**
- Must be verified

**Useful for:**
- Contemporary views
- Personal/expert opinions
- Primary accounts

**Find them:**
- Recommendations
- Online organizations
- Online social networks
- Yellow Pages
- Blogs