Partners in your academic success!

INTRODUCING YOU TO RESEARCH!
The IU East library staff, like the one pictured here, are eager to help you with your research. Don’t hesitate to ask for help. You will find that we are helpful and willing to answer questions.

-hot tip: The library is open 8 am to 8 pm Monday through Thursday and 8 am to 5 pm Friday.

← Ask me anything!
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT RESEARCH?

- Do you know how to research... for college?
- Is the thought of researching something giving you a chill?

👋 Don’t worry! We’re here to help!

🌟 Hot tip: Come see us early if you can – papers and tests can overwhelm you quickly at the end of the semester if you’re not prepared!
EVALUATING RESOURCES

ONLINE RESOURCES
HOW TO EVALUATE ONLINE RESOURCES

It is important to consider these elements when doing research:

- Purpose
- Authority
- Reliability
- Currency

-hot tip: A savvy researcher doesn’t take anything at face value – always question!
PURPOSE

- Is there a hidden agenda?
- Why did the author make the site?
- Is the site trying to sell you something?
- How easy is it to differentiate advertisements from content?
- Is the information factual, opinionated, or even just propaganda?
- Are the claims supported with evidence?
- Who is the intended audience?

Hot tip: Check to see if the person that published the information makes a profit from it. If so, it probably isn’t the most unbiased source.
AUTHORITY

- Is the author identifiable?
- Is contact information listed for the author?
- What is the author's background?
- Does the author cite his or her sources?
- Is this site linked to often by other sites?
- Have you heard of this author before?
- Are there spelling errors or grammatical mistakes?
- What domain does the site belong to (i.e., .edu, .gov, .com)?

Hot tip: You can use Google to search only educational domains with the ‘site’ command:
RELIABILITY

- The long-term existence of a web site is important if it is going to be cited as a source in other works or recommended for use to others.
- Do most of the links on the page work?
- From your evaluation of the site, do you think it will be there next time you access it?

Avoid this!

Hot tip: If you need a web page that’s been taken down, try the WayBack Machine at archive.org/web/web.php – links on these pages go to other archived pages.
CURRENCY

- When was the site last updated or revised?
- How often is the site updated?
- Do the links on the site work?
- Does your topic require currency?

Hot tip: When looking at a site with many pages, make sure each page you’re using is current. The revision date is frequently at the bottom.
Coverage

- What information is included or omitted?
- Is the page complete or under construction?
- Does the source fit in with other information you have found on your topic?
- Does it provide a new perspective?
- Does it add to what you already know?
- Is this a primary or a secondary source?

Hot tip: Shrewd scholars account for opposing views in their work. If authors ignore the existence of other opinions, that’s a big red flag!
EVALUATING RESOURCES

MAGAZINES AND ARTICLES
Journals and magazines are important sources for up-to-date information in all disciplines. Periodical literature can be found in five categories:

- Scholarly
- Professional or Trade
- News or General Interest
- Popular
- Sensational

Hot tip: The IU East Library subscribes to hundreds of online periodicals. Many include full-text articles available through specialized databases accessible at the library website.
SCHOLARLY JOURNALS

- Report original research, often in specific academic disciplines.
- Target audience is scholars, faculty, and students.
- Articles are written by experts in the field.
- Articles use specialized vocabulary relevant to the field of study, and require a familiarity with the subject.
- Few illustrations, and they support the text - usually as graphs, charts, diagrams, and maps.
- Articles usually include footnotes or bibliographies using a standardized citation format (i.e., APA, MLA, Turabian).
- Examples:
  - The American Economic Review
  - JAMA

🌟 Hot tip: Scholarly journals are often ‘peer reviewed,’ which means that other professionals in that field read and approved the work before it was printed.
PROFESSIONAL OR TRADE JOURNALS

- Written for experts or enthusiasts in a particular field; often very specialized.
- Designed to help professionals keep up with the latest developments and research in that field.
- Articles use specialized professional or industry terms.
- Include news about people, organizations, publications, conferences, and topical issues in a field.
- If research results are included, they are unlikely to have a bibliography.

Examples:

- Restaurant News
- Sight & Sound

Hot tip: Professional journals can have scholarly qualities, but are usually supported by advertising and are produced to make money for the publisher.
NEWS OR GENERAL INTEREST MAGAZINES

- Report the news to a non-specialized, but sometimes educated, audience.
- Sometimes cite sources, and may be written by a scholar or a freelance writer.
- Typically avoid jargon, or make an effort to explain it.
- Can take a distinctly partisan or advocacy-based position.
- Generally published for-profit by commercial businesses or individuals.

Examples:
- The Economist
- National Geographic
- Scientific American

Hot tip: Having trouble understanding a dense scholarly article? An article from a newsmagazine like this might help you understand the logic in the original.
POPULAR MAGAZINES

- Cover news, current events, hobbies or special interests.
- Targeted at the general public.
- Usually written by an editor, staff writer, or freelance writer.
- Language is written for non-experts, and does not use much, if any, jargon.
- Articles frequently contain some bias.
- Many illustrations, often with large, glossy photographs.
- Sources are sometimes cited, but do not usually include footnotes or a bibliography.

Examples: [EBONY][People][Sports Illustrated][TIME]

✨ Hot tip: These are fun to read, and can get you thinking – but usually there’s a better source for your paper. Even if your instructor allows them, use these sparingly!
SENSATIONAL MAGAZINES

- Cover tabloid-level gossip and invasive celebrity news.
- Frequently contain articles about disciplines rejected by academics, such as astrology.
- Often cheaply made; sometimes use a newspaper format.
- Tone is elementary and occasionally inflammatory or scandalous.
- Photographs are often as or more important than accompanying articles.
- Articles involve rumor-mongering and cater to popular superstitions.

Examples:

Hot tip: Although *Sports Illustrated* is usually a ‘popular’ journal, the annual swimsuit issue could be seen as ‘sensational’ instead.
To search for articles using the IU East Library you will need to go to the homepage.

Click on **LIBGUIDES A-Z INDEX** or **LIBGUIDES SUBJECT LISTING** to find our databases.

**iue.edu/library**

**Hot tip:** The databases that make up EBSCOHOST (like Academic Search Premier) and ProQuest Central together have 2/3 of our full text articles. When in doubt, start with those!
The best way to find a LibGuide is to browse by subject. Click on the topic area that interests you to see the LibGuides that have been made for it! There may even be one specifically for your class!

Hot tip: LibGuides are tailor-made for your class or research topic! They bring together all the high-quality academic sources you need for your assignments – books, e-books, articles, web sources, and more – in one convenient place!
EVALUATING RESOURCES
FINDING BOOKS

iue.edu/library

To search for books using the IU East Library you will need to navigate to the homepage. The SEARCH OUR CATALOG box at the right of this screen is where you can type in a keyword or title.

Read critically! Remember, just because it’s a book doesn’t mean it’s right!

Use the same skills you’ve learned to evaluate EVERYTHING, and you’re well on your way to being research-savvy!

🌟 Hot tip: The SEARCH OUR CATALOG box defaults to searching many libraries. If you want an item from our library, remember to scroll down and select ‘Campus Library, IU East.’
FIND A LIBRARIAN

If you find you need help...Ask!

- Call (765) 973-8279
- Visit the library Reference Desk
- Click the **ASK US** button on the library homepage
- Email a librarian at: iueref@iue.edu

💰 Look! The door is open!

🌟 Hot tip: You are not alone! We welcome the opportunity to work with you on your research topic.
The mission of the IU East Campus Library is to provide resources and services that support the academic engagement and research of diverse participants in our teaching and learning community."