Advanced Research Techniques

Section I: Finding Reliable Sources

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Finding Reliable Sources

- How is <u>academic writing</u> different from other types of writing?
- Why search for <u>sources</u> when writing for academic purposes?
- What <u>kinds</u> of sources are there?
  - Books
    - Content-based books/Coursebooks
    - Encyclopaedias
    - Reference books
    - Manuals
    - Dissertations/Theses (Published/Unpublished)
    - Reports (Government Reports/Private Organisation Reports)
    - Conference Proceedings
  - Academic Articles (published in academic journals)
  - Newspaper/Magazine Articles/Leaflets
  - Non-Print sources
    - Interviews/e-mail/other personal communications with people (sources)
    - Motion Pictures
    - Audio-materials (music or non-music)
    - Television Broadcast
  - Electronic Sources (includes almost everything above)
    - Online Periodicals
    - Electronic Books
    - Online encyclopaedias/dictionaries
    - Web pages

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Finding Reliable Sources

- What do we mean by <u>reliable</u>?
  - Can online sources be reliable?
    - YES!!! If:
      - There is an author to the article/source
      - The website has a (.org), (.gov), (.edu), (.ac.uk), or (.info) extension.
      - You have used an academic search engine to reach the site (e.g. a university library directed you to that page)
    - NO!!! If:
    - The page can be edited by its users (e.g. Wikipedia)
    - If it is a commercial website (e.g. (.com) extension)
    - If there's no author's name on the page
    - If you see a lot of advertisements on the page

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Finding Reliable Sources

- Search Options
  - Library Websites: http://library.neu.edu.tr
    - Search for books and all the print-based sources in the library
    - Search within Online Databases that the library is subscribed to
    - Online Databases: e.g. EBSCO, ERIC, ISI Web of Science, OVID, ScienceDirect, Ulakbim (Turkish Databases)
  - Online Resource Guides (e.g. CAL Resource Guide)
  - Google (HANDLE WITH CARE!)
    - Google Academic
    - Google Books

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Finding Reliable Sources

- Searching for Sources in Library Databases (General Catalogue)
  - Keywords
  - Advanced Search
  - Limiting your search criteria
  - Abstracts
- Searching for sources in Online Databases (e.g. EBSCO)
  - Using Advanced Search Options
- Searching for sources in the World Wide Web (WWW)
  - Boolean Search – using "AND" "OR" "NOT" in online search

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