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| Big 6 Research Steps- Step 2 – Information Seeking Strategies |  |

# What sources do I use when?

When doing research you may be able to find information faster from print resources than from the Internet.

Use the checklist below as a guide to help you find good information quickly. Use each source in the order they appear and check them off as you use them.

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| Resource checklist | | |
|  | Dictionary | Start here to get a definition of your research topic or any words that you don’t know from other sources. |
|  | Encyclopedia | This gives you a quick overview of a topic. It is easy to find information using the guide words on each page. |
|  | Atlas | Looking at a map may give you a better picture in your mind about the location of a place rather than reading words about it. |
|  | Almanac | This is best used for records or statistics. A new Almanac is published every year, so check the publication date. |
|  | Nonfiction books | Books on a specific topic can give you information that is reliable and specific to your topic. Use the OPAC in the Library by typing in your topic or words related to your topic. Don’t forget to check copyright dates for current information if you topic requires it. |
|  | Internet | Use Search Engines or databases to find websites about your topic. You must judge the reliability of the information. Don’t forget to check for the author and copyright dates. |
|  | Magazines | Magazines can give you a quick overview of a topic and provide information that most people want to know. |
|  | Newspaper | Use this for current events. Be sure to continue to look for more information from other sources. |
|  | Interview | If your topic requires, talking to an expert can answer any questions you still have and give you other sources to get information. |
|  | Thesaurus | Use this when writing a report and creating your final product to make your writing more interesting. |