

When to Use What

WWW related to research

The list of uses for Web sites is nearly endless, but the following are specific uses related to research:

- quickly skim your topic
- access library databases
- search book catalogs
- find current, up-to-minute information
- use specialized search tools, like **usa.gov**
- find information about companies
- find local, state and federal government information
- find expert opinions
- find popular opinions
- access a variety of media sources
- find groups and organizations
- use social networking and collaborative tools
- use web-based personal organization tools

Broadcast Media

- Don't assume that everything on "the news" is true. Verify news stories with other sources.
- keep you informed of the important newsmaking events of the day
- suggest research topics
- The media can respond to major events within minutes, but other events may be reported daily or weekly.
- Some shows are archived on the internet and/or available for purchase. As a rule, broadcast media does not provide a permanent record of events.

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/newswar/> News War

Newspapers

- find current information about international, national and local events
- find editorials, commentaries, expert or popular opinions

Popular Magazine

- to find information or opinions about popular culture
- to find up-to-date information about current events
- to find general articles by people who are not necessarily specialists about the topic

Magazines, like journals and newspapers, are called **periodicals** because they are published at regular intervals throughout the year.

Scholarly Journals - Also called academic journals or scientific journals

- when doing scholarly research
- to find primary research
- to find out what has been studied on your topic
- to find factual, documented information
- to find bibliographies that point you to other relevant research