INFORMATION GRAPH
How reliable is your information?

This is a general illustration of reliability for various resources, using the criteria from the previous pages.

RELIABILITY SCALE
Most reliable

Least reliable

Blog
Newsgroup
Personal page
Advertisement

Newspaper
Popular
Magazine
non-fiction

Company
reports, some
organizations

Wikipedia

General &
Subject
encyclopedias

Scholarly
Web pages, some
organizations

Scholarly
Journals &
Books

Primary
Documents

Comments based on evaluation criteria.

Individual pages can vary a lot from the average given here.

Bias/ opinion, no authority or references, not always accurate

Reporting from another source, limited authority, no references

Bias, purpose is to sell ideas, products or stocks

Unknown authors, useful but unreliable and few references

Not primary, consolidation and restatement by authorities, includes references

Authority, should include references, may be copy of primary source

Authority, references, may be publication of original research or review of others' research

Original information by participant

Created by Janet Moelzer
Reference Services Librarian

6/05/06
University Libraries