Library Resources & Services
AGRI 215: Agro-Ecosystems Field Course
Fall 2017

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Academic information sources

Reference Materials
Encyclopedias, dictionaries

Synthesis

Books

Broad or in-depth perspective of a topic

Journal Articles

Specific point of view on a precise question
Where to start?

McGill WorldCat
Database

McGill Library: Everything you need.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Currency | • When was the information published?  
• Does your topic require current information, or will older sources work? |
| Relevance | • Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?  
• Who is the intended audience? |
| Accuracy | • Where does the information come from? Is it supported by evidence?  
• Can you verify any of the information in another source?  
• Are there spelling, grammar or typographical errors? |
| Authority | • Who is the author  
• What are the author's credentials?  
• Is the author qualified to write on the topic? |
| Purpose | • What is the purpose of the information? Is it to inform, teach, sell, entertain or persuade?  
• Is the information fact, opinion or propaganda? |

Adapted from: Evaluating Information – Applying the CRAAP Test. Meriam Library at California State University, Chico.  
What is plagiarism?

“'Plagiarism’ means the representation of another’s work, published or unpublished, as one’s own.”

What is plagiarism?

Intellectual theft
https://canvas.sfu.ca/courses/15986/pages/2-dot-5-summary?module_item_id=176264
Why cite your sources?

- To give credit where it’s due: to the person whose words or ideas you are using

- To allow your reader to find the original source of your information

- Avoid plagiarism
When do you need to cite?

1. You use another person's ideas, opinions, or theories.

2. You use facts, statistics, graphics, drawings, music, etc., or any other type of information that does not comprise common knowledge.

3. You use quotations from another person's spoken or written word.

4. You paraphrase another person's spoken or written word.

Should I cite?

Is it a quote?

Yes

Cite it and place double quotation marks around the text

No

Is it a paraphrase?

Yes

Cite it

No

Is it another's idea / theory?

Yes

Cite it

No

There is no need to cite if it is common knowledge or your own thoughts.

Canada extends from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean. It covers 9,984,670 square kilometres (3,854,085 sq. mi.), 8.92% of which is water. Its population is 36,155,487 (April 2016 estimate).
Citing your sources – how?

**Council of Science Editors (CSE) style**

- Citation-Sequence
- Citation-Name
- **Name-Year**

T11 S386 2014 Macdonald Campus - Reference

Online guide:
  - linked from FMT subject guide:
The number of species that are observed to inhabit islands in relation to their landmass has been a topic of scientific interest for several decades. The islands of the Caribbean region reflect a mosaic of different geologic histories and exhibit a considerable variety of different landforms. Consequently, they provide locations for comparative studies to examine such associations. Bass (2003) discusses the biodiversity of aquatic invertebrates in this region. Species richness was generally related to area and island altitude, consistent with biogeographic theory. However, the ability or inability of certain groups of aquatic the considerable distances between islands or island groups, colonization. In contrast, native species of true marine or diadromous ancestors, and many groups of aquatic insects, often have low diversity on oceanic islands, because most continental species have limited dispersal abilities. For example, in the Hawaiian Islands these freshwater colonizers include numerous dipteran species such as the midge Telmatogoton torrenticola (Benbow et al. 1997).

Many freshwater island species are phylogenetically derived from marine ancestors. Neritid snails, atyid and

References cited

Brasher AMD. 2003. Impacts of human disturbances on biotic communi-

... correspond to full reference listing at the end of the paper
What to include in a reference

Example (book)

Example (book chapter)

Example (article)
Elliott KJ, Vose JM, Knoepp JD, Clinton BD, Kloeppel BD. 2015. Functional role of the herbaceous layer in eastern deciduous forest ecosystems. Ecosystems. 18(2): 221-236.
Citing Electronic Information

Must include
• Date the resource was accessed
• URL

Example (electronic book)

Example (website)
## How to read a scientific article - sections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Placement or wording</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>At the top of the article</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author(s)</td>
<td>Under the title or at the end of the article</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract (summary)</td>
<td>Beginning of the article</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction/Background (thesis/motivation)</td>
<td>“The purpose of this study is…” “The authors aim to investigate…”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methods (how it was done)</td>
<td>“The authors used/colllected/obtained”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results (what was found)</td>
<td>Figure 1, Table 1, %, #s, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion/Interpretation/Conclusions (what it all means)</td>
<td>“It was found…” “The results of this study demonstrate…”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>At the end of the article</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How to read a scientific article - order

1. Abstract
2. Discussion/Conclusion
3. Introduction/Background
4. Results
5. Methods
Getting help

Ask me:

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