After this week you will be able to...

1. Design a search strategy for answering a research or clinical question.
2. Identify reliable places to search for scientific literature.
3. Judge the appropriateness of a resource.
4. Describe the main findings of a resource.
Getting Help

Course Guide available at http://libguides.lib.msu.edu/vm150

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MSU Libraries Ask A Librarian Services
http://www.lib.msu.edu/contact/askalib/
Searching With A Purpose

Activity #2 Recap
Searching With A Purpose

Recap

- Do you think you had a successful search strategy? If not, what changes would you make?
- What resources did you search?
- Did you find information to answer your question?
- Do you still have any questions?
Identifying Reliable Resources
Determining Reliability

- Authority
- Accuracy
- Scope
- Currency
- Bias
- Style
Authority

- Who is the author?
- What is their experience or expertise?
- What is their affiliation?
- Can you tell what their purpose was for providing the information?
Accuracy

- Are sources provided for facts and statistics?
- Do the sources cited seem correct?
- Are there spelling or grammatical errors?
- Is the information in agreement with other sources?
Scope

- Is the source considered scholarly or popular?
- Is there a well-reasoned argument?
- Is the information one-sided?
Currency

- When was the information created?
- Have there been any recent updates?
- Are cited sources recent?
Bias

- Why was the resource created?
- Who is the intended audience?
- Does the author indicate any conflicts of interest?
- Is the author trying to sway opinion or promote a product?
Style

- Is the language clear and easy to understand?
- Does the source appear professional looking?
- Are links broken?
- Are figures and illustrations easy to read?
- Is the information well organized?
Identifying Credible Websites
Activity #3
Evaluating Websites

Find a partner. You will be assigned one of three websites.

Work through the questions on the *Identifying Credible Websites* handout.

Links to the websites are available at [http://libguides.lib.msu.edu/vm150/activities](http://libguides.lib.msu.edu/vm150/activities)

1. Do you think the site is credible?  Why or why not?
2. Would you recommend the site to a client?

VeterinaryPartner
[http://www.veterinypartner.com](http://www.veterinypartner.com)

PetPlace
[http://www.petplace.com](http://www.petplace.com)

Vetinfo
[https://www.vetinfo.com](https://www.vetinfo.com)
Reading A Scientific Paper
Identifying a Scientific Paper

- Usually 5 main components:
  - Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, Conclusion
  - May also have keywords, acknowledgements, appendices
  - Some variation depending on publisher, platform
- Author(s) and affiliation(s) clearly identified
- Detailed bibliography or works cited
- Often peer-reviewed
Selecting A Paper

When determining whether to read a paper you should:

- Determine where and when the article was published
- Browse the abstract
- Look at keywords and/or subject headings
- Check for diagrams, figures, or pictures
- Review the references
Initial Reading

Understanding a paper often requires you to read it more than once. When initially reading the paper, following these steps can help you determine if a paper is worth reading again in detail.

1. Read the Abstract
2. Skim the Introduction
3. Skip the Methods (for now)
4. Read the Results
5. Re-read the Introduction
6. Read the Discussion
7. Read the Methods
In-Depth Reading

When reading a paper in-depth, pay attention to the following:

- Are previous findings supported by evidence?
- What is the hypothesis/what is being tested?
- What is the sample size? Is it representative of a larger population?
- Do the methods make sense? Is the study repeatable?
- Do the results make sense for the methods used?
- Does the author address any shortcomings of the study?
Interpret & Summarize

- Look closely at graphs and figures
  - Try and interpret what data is being presented without looking at the captions or text of the paper
  - Do you come to the same conclusion as the author(s)?
- Identify any issues or new findings discussed in the results and discussion
  - Do they link this paper to others in the field?
- Summarize the main findings of the paper
  - It may help to take notes or highlight key points
Ask Yourself....

- Why did I choose this paper?
- Does the outcome change what I know/want to do?
- Do I have enough information?
Final Questions?
Feedback

Please take a minute or two and provide feedback on this week’s sessions.

http://libguides.lib.msu.edu/vm150/feedback

Thanks!!