

# Good Places to go on the WWW



## **Professional Organizations**

### **How to Identify/Find Them**

- To what organization(s) do you belong? In your profession, are you required to belong to one or more? If so, check out their websites for electronic scholarly publications, or a section featuring facts and statistics regarding issues pertinent to the profession.
- Ask your colleagues and professors!
- Publications' websites!
  - Do you want to write an article for a particular publication? Need to know their submission guidelines? Go to their website! (Google if you don't know what their homepage is.)
- Still at a loss? **Google!**
  - Try a Google search for: professional organizations for \_\_\_\_\_

The 'blank' could be.....

**teachers, educators, elementary teachers, high school teachers, etc. etc.**

In fact, before you even finish typing, Google will give suggestions based on past users' searches. How cool is **THAT?!**



## **U.S. Government (State and Federal)**

A great place to go for national and state statistics, public policy information and more!  
Here are a few suggestions!

South Carolina Department of Education

<http://ed.sc.gov/>

U.S. Department of Education

<http://www.ed.gov/index.jhtml>

National Center for Education Statistics

<http://nces.ed.gov/>

FedStats (plethora of governments statistics!)

<http://www.fedstats.gov/>

South Carolina Statistical Abstract

<http://www.ors2.state.sc.us/abstract/index.asp>

Statistical Abstract of the United States

<http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/>



**Thinking of Using Google Scholar? Don't. Here's why:**



Yep, it costs to get those articles full-text! Sure, you'll find plenty of scholarly material there, but you'll also be a lot lighter in the wallet for your troubles. So why pay when a lot of what you'll find in Google Scholar is in the online databases you learned about today? Do yourself a favor and stick with the databases! ☺



## **Edens Library Divergent Learning Resource Guide!**

Still looking for more Web goodies? Try our Divergent Learning Resource Guide!

<http://lits.columbiasc.edu/edenslibrary/divergentguide.htm>

# Research Guide:

## Evaluating Information from the World Wide Web

*Characteristics that make the Internet different from other familiar sources of information, such as books, newspapers, and television:*

Quantity  
Changeability

Lack of Editorial Authority  
Lack of Organization

Variety and Complexity  
Ownership

*Criteria for evaluating Web sites:*

- 1) **Purpose and Audience** – Who is the information designed to reach? Why is it on the Web?
- 2) **Authority** – Who is responsible? What are their credentials? Do they provide biographies or references? Do they credit other information sources? Is there contact information for the author or producer?
- 3) **Scope** – What is the time period covered? Is the coverage general or detailed? Are there relevant and helpful links to other Web sites?
- 4) **Accuracy** – Are the facts reliable given what you already know about the subject? Is the information objective or does it have a clearly stated bias? How does it compare to other sources (print and non-print)?
- 5) **Currency** – Is there a date of creation on the Web site? How frequently is it updated? Is there obviously out-of-date information? Do the links still work?
- 6) **Design** – Is it easy and quick (less than three clicks) to navigate? Is it easy to locate pertinent information? Is it cluttered? Does it have distracting backgrounds or too many graphics that slow it down? Can you search it? Does it require plug-ins or players?
- 7) **Commercialism** – Is it trying to sell something? Are there hidden costs? Do you have to supply personal information? Is the site secure?
- 8) **Evaluation by Others** – Do reputable Web sites link to it?