**Science Literature**

1. **Primary research journals**
   - Peer-reviewed, original research
     - How to tell if something is peer reviewed?
     - Rob will provide some strategies & sources
   - Occasionally include review articles or methods reviews
   - Can be available “on web” (e.g., in .pdf form)
     - Still considered primary research literature – not “web source”

**Citing journal articles obtained off the web**

**Gold & Bliss 1995**

YES!


NO!


2. **Review journals**

   - Annual review of ecology and systematics
   - Annual review of biophysics
   - Annual review of environment and resources

**Web sources vs. Research articles**

**Gold & Bliss 1995**

YES!

Citing journal articles obtained off the web

NO!


3. Scholarly synthesis volumes / scientific assessments
- Compilations of reviews / syntheses from various perspectives, scales
- Often from meetings, symposia, workshops
- Expert panels of scientists convened by NAS, NSF, etc. to assess the state of knowledge and understanding of critical topics: “scientific assessments”
- Examples:
  - IPCC Reports
  - North American Terrestrial Vegetation
  - Arctic Ecosystems in a Changing Climate

4. Theses & Dissertations
- Peer-reviewed original research (though often without external review)
- Long & detailed – pros and cons

Search for English Ivy in UW Library catalogue

5. Technical Reports
- Management perspective / applied ecology
- Land management & regulatory agencies
- Examples:
  - EIS; DEIS; EA
  - Intergovernmental Panel on Salmon Recovery Report
  - USFS Mt Baker-Snoqualmie management plan

6. Textbooks
- Large scale synthesis with educational objective
- Provides view of the structure of a field as well as information
- Often sections are peer reviewed, though perhaps with less rigor
- Good place to start becoming familiar with a topic & terminology

7. Popular Literature
- Usually NOT peer reviewed
- Hidden or not-so-hidden agendas
- How do you distinguish these from peer-reviewed sources?
  - Examine the “instructions to authors” section of the journal
  - For further perspectives see: [http://library.uwb.edu/guides/sources.html](http://library.uwb.edu/guides/sources.html)

8. The Web: the good, the bad, and the questionable
A) Searching Tools & Strategies
- 1. Scientific Societies  Ecological Society of America: [www.esa.org](http://www.esa.org)
- 2. Journals on-line and e-journals
  UW library systems has extensive electronic subscriptions
- 3. Search Engines
  - Frequency of use: google, bing, ask.com, etc.
  - Clustered results: grokker, vivisimo, etc.
  - Scholarly sources: google scholar
8. The Web: the good, the bad, and the questionable

A) Searching Tools & Strategies

4. Source Compilations
   Faculty, societies, agencies (e.g., PNW Ecology Links)

5. Land Management / Regulatory Agencies
   USFS, BLM, WA-DOE, WA-DNR, EPA, etc.

6. Organizations with an (explicit?) agenda

B) Evaluating Web Information

1. Journals on-line and e-journals: RELIABLE
   Peer-reviewed articles treated same as hardcopy materials

2. Remainder can be hard to judge: rough rules of thumb
   - Author / web site associated with university: yyyy.edu
   - Author / web site affiliated with government agency: yyyy.gov
   - Author / web site representing a professional society: yyyy.org
   - Author / web site affiliated with non-profit organization: yyyy.org
   - Author / web site affiliated with for-profit organization: yyyy.com

C) Citing Web Sources


1. Determine the author
   - If no clear individual, use the organization as author

2. Include date site accessed and updated (if available)

3. Base initial year in citation on date site was updated or revised

4. Format generally consistent with other citations – but include web address (URL)