

**Scientific 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
- Examples: Science, Nature, Ecology, Northwest Science
- Can be available "on web" (e.g., in .pdf form)  
*Still considered primary research literature – not "web source"*

**2. Review journals**

- Synthesis of a body of knowledge – not original "research" but may offer new insights
- Sometimes (often) peer-reviewed
- An excellent place to start a literature review
- Examples: Annual review of ecology and systematics, Annual review of environment and resources

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**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: 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

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**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

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**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- Usually NOT peer reviewed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>**

## Scientific Literature

### 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, metacrawler, ask.com, etc.

clustered results: grokker, vivisimo, etc.

##### 4. Source Compilations

Faculty, societies, agencies (e.g., [faculty.washington.edu/wgold](http://faculty.washington.edu/wgold))

##### 5. Land Management / Regulatory Agencies

USFS, BLM, WA-DOE, WA-DNR, EPA, etc.

##### 6. Organizations with an (explicit?) agenda

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### 8. The Web: the good, the bad, and the questionable

#### 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: some rough rules of thumb

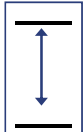
Author / web site associated with university: **yyy.edu**

Author / web site affiliated with government agency: **yyy.gov**

Author / web site representing a professional society: **yyy.org**

Author / web site affiliated with non-profit organization: **yyy.org**

Author / web site affiliated with for profit organization: **yyy.com**



## Scientific Literature

### 8. The Web: the good, the bad, and the questionable

#### C) Citing Web Sources

Nature Conservancy, The. 2001. Plants of the Badger Mountain Reserve. The Nature Conservancy of Washington Web Site: [www.tnc.org/wash/veg/bm.htm](http://www.tnc.org/wash/veg/bm.htm). Accessed September 22, 2001. Updated February 22, 2001.

##### 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