

Citing and referencing – part 2

Introduction:

Where to research?

For academic research, some of the most popular search engines-platforms include:

- [Google Scholar](#)
- [Microsoft Academic](#)
- [Research Gate](#)
- [Semantic Scholar](#)

These tools, index several journals, databases, repositories, of various academic principles and return results, usually from a text-based query (keywords).

Libraries (school libraries, university, and research)

- Books (hard copies)
- Institutional subscription to journals
- Newspaper archives (digitized) example: Library of Congress [Newspaper Navigator](#)
- Maps
- Digital archives and audiovisual media e.g. [Internet Archive](#)
- Digital libraries example [Europeana](#)
- Open educational resources

Institutional repositories (dissertations, Phds, grey literature) examples:

[IKEE](#), Institutional Repository of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki – IKEE

[Dione](#) Digital depository of University of Piraeus

[Digital catalogue](#) of National Library of Greece

Digital Library [Pergamos](#) of University of Athens

[Dspace NTUA](#) Digital Library of National Technical University of Athens

[National Archive of PhD Theses \(Greece\)](#), maintained by the National Documentation Center

Often, a good way to identify which service contains sources relevant to our subject, is to locate such a resource (paper, music, etc.) and acknowledge the publisher, platform, authors, and relevant works.

Evaluation:

Journals:

It is a common practice for scientific journals, in order to safeguard the quality of works, to use peer review systems. System as such serve as a form of evaluation, of a research by people with similar competencies as the authors of the work (peers). It functions as a form of self-regulation by qualified members of a profession, within the relevant field.

Websites, other digital formats:

The easiness and speed with which news, articles, videos are published on the web, has dramatically changed the way humans perceive information. The economy has also shifted to digital products and services and as a result, many stakeholders avoid regulating their practices. For a news agency that runs ads on their site, every visit is revenue, thus many news websites, do not check the validity of the news they publish, a practice resulting to misinformation (fake news) spread.

We have to be able, to distinguish between valuable and irrelevant pieces of information, based on our education, reasoning, 'filters' and instinct.

Some other methods to spot and avoid misinformation include the following:

- Navigate away from the page, examining parts such as About, Contact, Work
- Read beyond flashy titles. Publishers choose to over present news, with titles acting as click baits
- Do a background work on authors. Are they credible, do they sound biased?
- Visit some of the links provided inside the story. See if they lead to credible known sites.
- Read comments and reviews from other users.
- Inspect dates and images, to avoid reading a deprecated story.
- For the same subject, try to visit other websites as well to get a better understanding of it.
- Investigate images by performing reverse [image search](#) provided as a service by Google.
- Ask an expert or consider using a fact checking service or route.

Bibliography management:

Managing bibliography of a research can be a puzzling and time-consuming process. To keep track of our references, organize them in lists and finally synthesizing our bibliography, we could use specialized software and services.

Tools as such help us in automating the bibliography writing process, based into a style. Some of the functionalities they provide include:

- Creating a bibliography folder-database
- Extraction of references and metadata
- Remote access
- Share collection with coworkers

Two popular software for managing references, are [Mendeley](#) (Windows, Mac, Linux) and [Zotero](#) (Windows, Mac, Linux).

There are several online services for producing quick bibliographic references. Some of them are:

- [Cite This for Me](#)
- [Easy Bib](#)
- [Scribbr](#)
- [Zotero Bib](#)
- [BibMe](#)

Regarding citations and references, writing, popular text editors provide support to their users. For example, we can find a short guide for MS Word documents [here](#). LibreOffice writer provides a similar guide [here](#).

Finally yet importantly, the above-mentioned software provide additional resources such as [Web Importer and Citation plugin](#) from Mendeley and [Zotero Connector](#) (all browsers). These extend the functionality of the programs.

Moreover, academic research may be prepared by using the LaTeX system. This system is similar to a markup language for writing text, stylizing it and adding citation and references. Popular LATEX editors such as [Overleaf](#) provide online capabilities for the online preparation of research. Similar to style guides, there are premade LaTeX templates and rules, for applying a specific style to a document.