

# MASTERING RESEARCH SKILLS

**SUBJECT:** Critical evaluation of information online

**LESSON TOPIC:** Developing research strategies for finding reliable information

**DURATION:** 60 minutes

## LEARNING OBJECTIVE/S:

Students will develop basic research skills to effectively find and evaluate reliable information online.

**Competencies acquired:** ability to use basic search strategies to identify credible sources and information and assess the reliability and relevance of information.

## MATERIALS/RESOURCES NEEDED:

- Module 4 (<https://www.digi-civis.eu/e-learning>)
- Access to reliable websites
- Quiz on research strategies

## METHODS/TECHNIQUES:

Interactive lecture on research strategies, followed by a practical exercise where students conduct research and complete a quiz.

## LESSON PLAN OVERVIEW

### PREPARATION:

- Prepare a lecture on basic research strategies, including how to use age-appropriate databases and reliable websites.
- Use a quiz that tests students' knowledge of research strategies and their ability to evaluate sources.
- Select a relevant research topic for the practical exercise.

### IMPLEMENTATION:

- Ask students why using reliable sources is important for research. Explain how accurate information impacts decision-making and learning.
- Introduce basic research strategies. Teach students how to formulate simple search queries, evaluate website credibility, and distinguish between reliable and unreliable sources.
- Students will research a given topic using the strategies and complete the quiz.

### MORE INFORMATION TO LEARN MORE:

- [Research Skills: What They Are and How They Benefit You](#)
- [Research using the Internet](#)

### ANNEXES:

- A set of questions designed to test students' knowledge of research strategies

### HOMEWORK:

Choose a topic that is interesting to you and conduct research using at least two reliable sources from the provided list. Write a short report with your findings.

### ASSESSMENT:

Performance on the quiz, demonstrating understanding of research techniques and source evaluation.

## ANNEX: QUIZ

1. What is one key characteristic of a reliable source?
  - A) It is the most recent information available.
  - B) It is written by an anonymous author.
  - C) It is published by a well-known expert in the field.**
  - D) It includes lots of ads and flashy graphics.
2. Which of the following is NOT a good research strategy?
  - A) Using broad search queries to get more results.**
  - B) Checking the publication date of the information.
  - C) Evaluating the author's qualifications and expertise.
  - D) Cross-referencing the information with multiple sources.
3. How can you verify the credibility of a website?
  - A) Check if the website has a lot of traffic.
  - B) Look for an "About Us" page that provides more information.**
  - C) See if the website has a colorful design.
  - D) Check if the website is the first result in a search engine.
4. True or **false**: A source is more reliable if it has been shared widely on social media.
5. **True** or false: Academic databases are often a good place to find reliable and well-researched information.
6. Practical scenario: You are researching a historical event and find two sources, one from a well-known history magazine and one from a personal blog. How would you decide which source is more reliable? Why?

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**Discuss the results obtained and clarify any doubts raised**