8.3: Annotated List of Useful Online Resources

1. the names of the websites (and authors, if not the same as the publishers or providers),
2. the associated publishers or providers,
3. URLs to the home pages for the websites,
4. and summaries that describe the websites’ content and coverage as well as suggested research use.

CIA World Factbook, Central Intelligence Agency.

“The World Factbook provides information on the history, people, government, economy, geography, communications, transportation, military, and transnational issues for 267 world entities.” It provides maps and flags for each country, along with detailed statistics in each of the main categories. For example, the “People and
Society” category provides a variety of demographic statistics ranging from ethnic groups to languages to birth and death rates. This is a good site for both foundational and statistical information at the broad, national level for countries around the world.

Government Statistical Sites


The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) focuses on "measuring labor market activity, working conditions, and price changes in the economy.” This is the place to go to research employment, occupational information, salary and benefits, and other labor-related information. Students researching careers will find a lot of information in the [Occupational Outlook Handbook](https://www.bls.gov/oco/).  

**National Center for Education Statistics.** Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education.

The National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) “collect[s] and analyze[es] data related to education in the U.S. and other nations.” It reports statistics and publishes reports from early childhood education all the way up to higher education. It also collects and publishes data about libraries. This is the place to go to research assessment scores, school programs, enrollment figures, tuition costs, financial aid, graduation rates, and other similar topics.

**Internet Archive.** Internet Archive.

The [Internet Archive](https://archive.org/) is more than just an archive of web pages. (Even though looking up older versions of web pages can be a pretty cool thing!) It also includes “texts, audio, moving images, and software.” It is international in scope and offers “specialized services for adaptive reading and information access for the blind and other persons with disabilities.” This site would be a good place to check for media archives for video and music events. It’s also a good source for public domain works (i.e., works that are no longer in copyright).

**National Archives and Records Administration.** U.S. National Archives and Records Administration.

The [National Archives](https://www.archives.gov/) holds a variety of records and other important documents as “the nation’s record keeper.” Many of these sources are digitized and available online. Even if the documents aren’t digitized, the National Archives provides records to tell you where you can locate or request a print copy. You can search the site for “documents, photos, and records,” or you can review educational material. This site is also the place to research military records. Because of the site’s emphasis on recording information of historical significance, it’s best used for historical or genealogical research.

**National Institutes of Health.** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The [National Institutes of Health](https://www.niaid.nih.gov/) (NIH) “is the nation’s medical research agency.” It’s actually “made up of 27 Institutes and Centers, each with a specific research agenda, often focusing on particular diseases or body systems.” Some of the institutes include the National Cancer Institute and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, along with the National Library of Medicine. Each of these institutes has its own site where it provides information about its specialization in the forms of documents, pamphlets, training materials, consumer-focused data, and statistics. These sites would be good sources for locating information related to the biological
sciences: biology, anatomy, disease, environment, aging, nursing research, etc.

**ProCon.org: Pros and Cons of Controversial Issues.** ProCon.org.

*ProCon.org* is a non-profit site that focuses on covering both sides of controversial issues. It organizes topics according to subject, with some topics containing additional subtopics. Each argument includes citations to supporting documentation. In this way, students are able to use the site as both a brainstorming tool and a source of relevant articles and online sources.

**Purdue Online Writing Lab [Purdue OWL].** Purdue University.

The *Purdue Online Writing Lab* [OWL] is one of the most well-known online writing labs. The site contains sections for writing (both general and subject-specific), research, and citation. It also provides detailed guides for writing and citing in both MLA and APA styles. This is a good site for students seeking more information about writing and citation styles, as well as the general mechanics of writing.

**Handouts & Demos.** College of Arts and Sciences, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

*Handouts & Demos* is a collection of materials to help students with the writing process. The site is organized into four sections: “Writing the Paper,” “Citation, Style, and Sentence Level Concerns,” “Specific Writing Assignments/Contexts,” and “Writing for Specific Fields.” This is a good site for students needing more information about the mechanics and background of writing.

### Reflection Questions

- What skill does this content help you develop?
- What are the key topics covered in this content?
- How can the content in this section help you demonstrate mastery of a specific skill?
- What questions do you have about this content?

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