

# #1 Merits of Online Information

The Santa Monica Public Library has dropped its subscription to **Biography in Context** because of lack of usage and cost. The librarians decided to use **Wikipedia** instead. I would like you to select a biographical question. Try using Wikipedia and either Biography in Context if you have access to it locally or use the King Library's subscription to **Biography Reference Bank** if you do not have access to Biography in Context. In your answer, provide the following:

(a) Describe your biographical reference question. **I asked about Audrey Hepburn.**

(b) Briefly describe the answers you located using in Wikipedia and either Biography in Context or Biography Reference Bank.

**In Wikipedia, the information tended to be more general, but not always. The article in Biography Reference Bank seemed to have an easier flow.**

(c) Based on your findings, discuss whether you think Wikipedia might make a reasonable alternative to the database you selected based on the quality of the answers provided by the two sources. Briefly explain how you reached your conclusions.

**Wikipedia certainly is a reasonable alternative, however I definitely enjoy the curated books and database articles as well. It's a shame they aren't been used as they used to be.**

OR

[Mike Caulfield](#)

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

has argued that tools like the [CRAAP test](#)

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

for evaluating online sources use outdated collection development criteria that used to be used for selecting books for a print library collection. He argues that people need to recontextualize or reconstruct the context that we need to use when reading, viewing or

listening to digital content effectively.

Caulfield recommends [four steps](#):

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

(1) **Stop** - Before reading a resource, stop and consider the source and the claims being made.

(2) **Investigate the source** - Consider what you are reading before you actually read it and get bogged down in the details. For example, consider whether you are reading an article by a Nobel prize winner or whether you have marketing provided by a company that wants to sell you something.

(3) **Find trusted coverage** -- Investigate whether the claim being made is trustworthy or not, takes a consensus point of view, or is the source of controversy. Find sources that provide trusted analysis or reporting on the claim being made.

(4) **Trace claims back to the original sources** -- Find the context of claims being made to be sure that the original source was being accurately represented.

Choose a resource in the news and test Caulfield's four steps:

(a) Identify the source you tested and report on what you found for each of the four steps.

(b) What was your opinion about using Caulfield's four steps to evaluate online sources? Explain.

## #2 ERIC Database

ERIC is the granddaddy of education databases. Like Medline/PubMed and Agricola, it is provided and indexed by a government agency so people can access the free version on the web or access it through vendors for a minimal cost. SJSU, for example, provides three different versions of ERIC via ProQuest, EBSCO, and the web version. One advantage of using a vendor version of ERIC is that you will already be familiar with the database platform. However, one reason people will want to use the ERIC database indexing rather than the third-party indexing offered by ProQuest or EBSCO is that there are some special search features using the ERIC search options.

- Choose the [Ebsco version](#)
- [Links to an external site.](#)
- of ERIC:
- Go to the **Advanced** search option.

- Do a keyword search for the term “libraries”.
- Limit your search to
  - **ERIC documents** -- These have ED accession numbers that include reports, white papers, conference papers, dissertations and more. This will be available under Journal or Document. (Note that this eliminates all journal article submissions.)
  - **Date Published: May 2019 - April 2020.**
  - **Publication Type -- Reports - Research.** (In the Publication Type, scroll down to Reports- Research)

(a) Provide a screenshot of your search results. How many research reports did you locate?

The screenshot shows the ERIC search results page for the term "libraries". The search results are displayed in a list format. The first result is "Reading Habit and Students' Attitudes towards Reading: A Study of Students in the Faculty of Education UiTM Puncak Alam" by Baba, Jamiah; Affendi, Faiza Rostam. The second result is "A Comprehensive Primer to Library Learning Analytics Practices, Initiatives, and Privacy Issues" by Jones, Kyle M. L.; Briney, Kristin A.; Goben, Abigail. The page includes a "Refine Results" sidebar with filters for Boolean/Phrase, Expanders, Limiters, and Limit To. The search results are sorted by Date Newest.

760.

(b) Go to the most recent abstract for this document and identify the ERIC number which starts with ED..... (This is provided in the Accession Number field.)

EJ1252266

(c) Identify the author or authoring institution for this report/document.

Asian Journal of University Education

(d) Use the Ebsco citation tool to obtain the citation formatted: Use APA formatting, and provide the citation.

Baba, J., & Affendi, F. R. (2020). Reading Habit and Students' Attitudes towards Reading: A Study of Students in the Faculty of Education UiTM Puncak Alam. *Asian Journal of University Education*, 16(1), 109–122.

(e) According to the APA 7 manual, how should a ERIC citation should a read? How did this compare with what the Ebsco citation tool produced?

Author's Last Name, First Initial. Second Initial. (Year). *Title of document: Subtitle if given* (ERIC document number). Database Name.

This means that the setup would go:

Baba, J., & Affendi, F. R. (2020). Reading Habit and Students' Attitudes towards Reading: A Study of Students in the Faculty of Education UiTM Puncak Alam. (EJ1252266). *Asian Journal of University Education*.

### #3 Current Issues

In this age when people are living increasing in "filter bubbles", it is important to introduce people to both sides of a topic. For example, librarians are frequently asked to help students find appropriate resources for a class assignment on a controversial topic, To check out various alternative tools that a reference librarian might use for helping a student narrow their topic, take a look at these tools using a topic that a high school or college student might be assigned:

- Select two sources such the website [ProCon.org](http://ProCon.org)

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

, CQ Researcher (available online via the King Library), or subscription databases such as Opposing Viewpoints in Context, Gale Virtual Reference Library

[http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/alise\\_sjsu](http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/alise_sjsu)

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

password **alise\_program**), **Newsbank**, or a similar database of your choice that is appropriate for hot topics/issues appropriate for college freshmen.

(a) Identify your two database choices.

### ProCon and CQ Researcher

(b) What were the pros and cons of the two sources you selected?

**ProCon: Had direct pros and cons laid out side by side.**

**CQ Researcher: Was more about the general subject and not so much a pro and con site.**

## # 4 Credible Sources for Country Information, Gazetteers, and More

Students at a community college have a class assignment where they have to select a country that they are unfamiliar with. These students need to find at least credible sources for an annotated bibliography that provide information on various aspects of the country such as politics, government, language, religion(s), geographical location, historical sites, cultural beliefs, and social customs.

The U.S. government has a great deal of information available on other countries that can be easily accessed via the Internet:

- The **CIA World Factbook** at <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

,

- U.S. Department of State, **Country Specific Information** at [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1765.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1765.html)

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

- The Library of Congress, **Country Reports** at <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/>

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

.

- King Library's databases including **CountryWatch**.

I would like you to do the following:

(a) Name the country that you are helping the student research.

(b) Identify two credible library databases and/or government websites that you would recommend to the student.

(c) Provide a screenshot of the kind of information found using each of your recommended sources.

(d) Provide a brief sentence for each choice explaining why you recommended the resource to use for the student's assignment.

(e) Identify how current the information is in your two selected sources.

**OR**

A **gazetteer** is a geographical index or dictionary. *The Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names® Online*, for example, can be used to trace the history, origin, and preferred uses of place names. This can be a useful research tool because most of the entries are well-sourced, including references to various gazetteers. *The Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names* can also be extremely useful as a reference tool as a great many reference questions revolve around places. Even when the reference question does not require clarification of a place name, it can be helpful when a patron is confused about or lacking a place name.

People who live in Los Angeles have many neighborhoods with distinct place names that predate the neighborhood's annexation into recognized cities.

(a) Use the [Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names](#)

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

to look for the term "Tropico" and type "former community" as the **place type** to help narrow your results. (NOTE: See Lookup to see all the search options.) Provide a screenshot of your search result that identifies Tropico is a district of Glendale now known as the Adams Hill neighborhood.

(b) Choose a location of interest to you. Describe your search strategy, and provide a screenshot of your search results.

(c) Explore the [Tools and Databases](#)

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

tab, and identify one useful resource you located. Provide a screenshot of something interesting that you located in.

OR

The Library of Congress (LOC) has the **Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps Online Checklist** which provides a searchable database of the fire insurance maps published by the Sanborn Map Company that are housed in the collections of the Geography and Map Division. According to the LOC, "the Sanborn map collection consists of a uniform series of large-scale maps, dating from 1867 to the present and depicting the commercial, industrial, and residential sections of some twelve thousand cities and towns in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The maps were designed to assist fire insurance agents in determining the degree of hazard associated with a particular property and therefore show the size, shape, and construction of dwellings, commercial buildings, and factories as well as firewalls, locations of windows and doors, sprinkler systems, and types of roofs. The maps also indicate widths and names of streets, property boundaries, building use, and house and block numbers." If you are interested in learning more about this collection, see [Introduction to the Collection](#)

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

. This collection is of interest to genealogists, historians, and others.

(a) Go to the Sanborn Maps collection at <https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/>

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

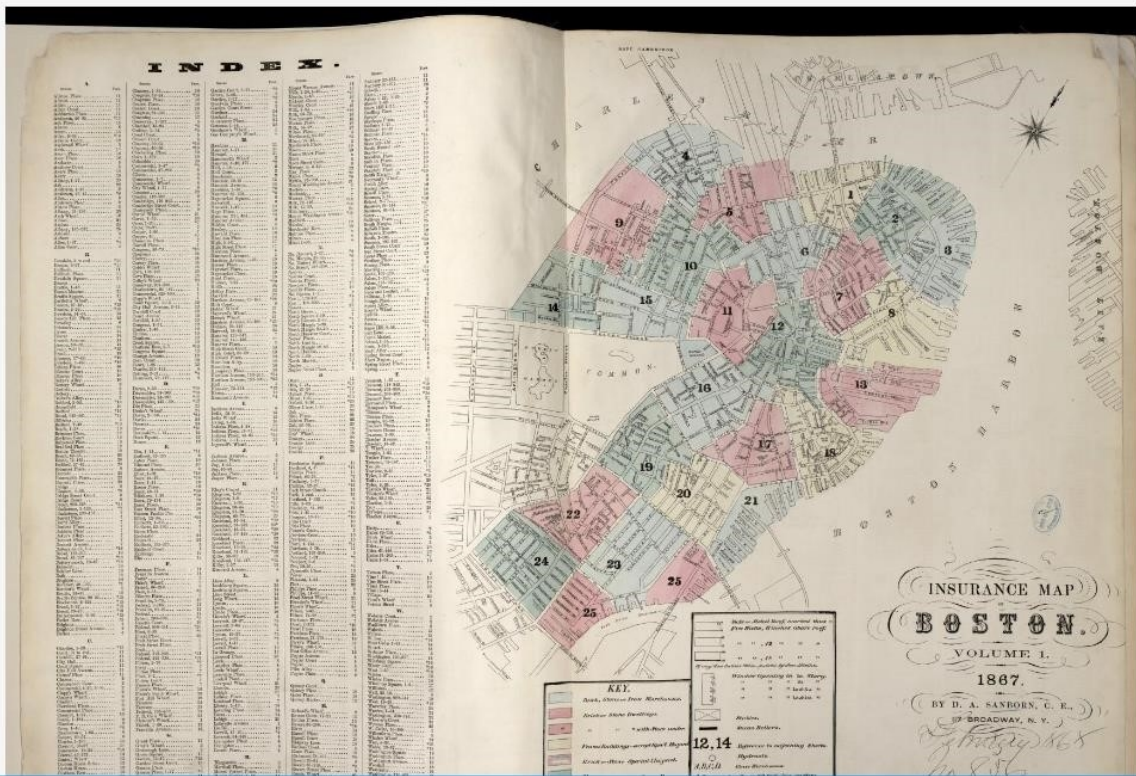
Identify the topic of interest for your quest for an online map.

(b) identify the location and the date.

**Boston, 1867**

(c) Provide a screenshot of the map or a portion of it.





View 26 images in sequence.

(d) Reflect briefly on whether and/or this tool was helpful for your topic of interest.

This was really cool! I can imagine this is a great way to find out information about a new place that you've never been to.

## #5 Literary Figures

A teacher has assigned the students in the high school COMP class to write a short biography of a minority writer in the 20th century. Use the Gale Cengage Learning database, **Literature Resource Center** (in the King Library) to locate an author.

(a) Provide the name of the author.

Boris Pahor

(b) Identify the nationality or ethnicity of the author.

Slovenian



(c) Identify the various types of information that you are able to locate on your author.

Essentially his whole history was there, from where he was from to the things he had written, to his history before he was a professional writer.

## #6 Reflections on Using Open Access Resources

vs

## Subscription Databases for Reference Help

(a) Reflect on the kinds of resources you have used for the various mini activities and discuss what you learned about when it is appropriate for a reference librarian to use open/free resources including Google, Amazon.com, and Wikipedia versus subscription library databases.

Open, free sources seem to be better for quick and dirty information, as well as any general and simple answer. If you would like a more in-depth or certainly peer-reviewed article, it is much easier to find this on a library database that is subscribed to.

(b) Reflect on how usage of published print and online reference resources is impacted by their discoverability and the ease and speed with which they can be used.

It is difficult for people to access quality information because of paywalls and other similar issues. Much information is not readily available to the public and there are many barriers to use.