

English Language Learners (ELL) Research Strategies: Where to Find Information

First-year writing assignments often include reflections and creative pieces that are more expressive in nature and do not necessarily involve much research. When you get into higher-level classes, you will often be required to research information from outside your knowledge base. This handout refers specifically to writing essays such as critical reviews or research papers.

Academic readers are more likely to trust and be persuaded by the arguments in an essay when essays are written from researched information. For this reason, it is important to find valid academic sources for your information.

Here are some places where you can search for academic sources at the Brantford campus:

- Laurier Library: <http://library.wlu.ca/>
 - This website will allow you to use the resources that are available in the library catalogue as well as a variety of different databases:
 - Primo Search – Best for searching for books. Books can be delivered to Laurier Brantford from Guelph, Laurier, and Waterloo university libraries (TUG).
 - Databases – The course or subject guides will help you find the best databases to search for your topic. Periodicals and journal articles can be accessed in full-text format online or in print from TUG or RACER.
- Scholars Portal: <https://scholarsportal.info/>
 - This search portal contains a collection of academic resources.
- Google Scholar: <http://scholar.google.ca/>
 - This website works just like Google, but it generates academic articles and resources only. You can set Google Scholar to link to “Get it @ Laurier” from the settings link, under “Library Links,” to help you identify resources to which you have access.

Remember: While you may use the Internet occasionally for finding research information, it is important to evaluate the quality and validity of any sources before using them!

Citing your Sources:

Each time you write about information that has come from somewhere else, it is necessary to cite the authors so that they can be acknowledged for their research. It is important to include in-text citations and reference lists or bibliographies in formal papers. For more information on MLA, APA and Chicago-Turabian citation styles, please visit Learning Skills and Development in-person or online for resources.