

## **Sources: Does Format Matter?**

Print vs. Database vs. Website

### **Print= Published on paper—books, magazines, newspapers**

Pros:

- Went through a review for accuracy if it contains facts and was published by a reputable publisher
- Tangible (You can hold it).
- Don't need any sort of technology to read
- Available at The Kansas City Public Library
- Free with a Kansas City Public Library card

Cons:

- Can be outdated by the time that it is published, printed, and delivered.
- Uses time and resources to label it and to put it in the Library's catalog
- Limits searching to the table of contents and index (if available)

### **Databases= Electronic collections of information that the library pays for since they require a subscription**

Pros:

- Current with constantly updated information
- Searchable
- Contains information from multiple types of print resources (books, magazines, newspapers) all in one place
- Went through a review for authority and accuracy.
- Cites original sources
- Available at The Kansas City Public Library website's research page
- Free with a Kansas City Public Library card

Cons:

- Needs an Internet enabled computer or device to access
- Often confused with websites since both are electronic, even though many used to be resources in print format (See below for drawbacks of websites)
- Better returns with formulated search queries than with natural language

### **Websites= Information that one can find on the Internet**

Pros:

- Easy to find
- Does not require a Library card to access
- Searchable with natural language

Cons:

- Needs an Internet enabled computer or device to access
- Hits found in a search may not be relevant (apply to the topic the searcher really study)
- Many not trustworthy
  - Not necessarily authoritative or accurate
  - Anyone can post a page without knowing about the topic and without review by others
- Addresses to see sites later can change