# A Guide to Exhibition Research

The sources you choose to cite in your Exhibition project are crucial to substantiating and validating the answer to your core question. When looking at potential sources, consider the following:

•**Is this a reliable, scholarly source that can be used to support the answer to my core question?**

These sources are going to be used to support what you say; it is therefore critical that they are sources that can be trusted. Of course, not everything that is written can be trusted as an reliable source, and if you use unreliable sources, the answer to your core question is going to be weakened by those sources rather than strengthened. It is therefore imperative that you critically examine the sources you are relying upon. See the excerpt below (from Barron’s *10 Steps in Writing the Research Paper)* on source evaluation for tips on making sure your sources are authoritative and reliable.

**The Rules of Exhibition Research**

1. When citing electronic sources, be especially critical. Try to use only internet sites with *.edu* or *.gov* address domains, as these are affiliated with educational and government institutions and therefore tend to be the most reliable sources. An internet source with a *.com* address domain must be thoroughly examined to determine its validity and reliability. See Section F of the Barron attachment below for more information.
2. Wikipedia, blogs, and personal web pages **are not** considered authoritative and reliable resources, as well as the sites such as ehow.com and ask.com.
3. Be sure to explore all avenues of research. Do not just rely on Google. Explore the number of online database subscriptions that the LHS Library has on their website (<http://www.lincolnps.org/HighSchool/library/index.htm>). Another helpful search engine is the Librarians’ Internet Index which can be found at <http://www.ipl.org/>. Also, actually visit your school and local libraries to do some old-fashioned book research—you will be amazed at what you find!

**Source Evaluation (from Barron’s *10 Steps in Writing the Research Paper):***



