FINDING ACADEMIC RESOURCES

To find good sources, ask yourself:

- What kind of source is this?
  - Journal articles and books are ideal sources. Try to refrain from using Wikipedia articles, social media, and other non-scholarly sources that anyone can post or publish, regardless of credentials.

- Has this source been published within the last twenty years?
  - It's best to use sources that are relatively recent, as their information is more likely to be up-to-date.

- Is this source noticeably biased?
  - While it's impossible to write something totally free from bias, it's best to use sources that try to remain impartial, as using a noticeably biased source diminishes your credibility.

- Is this source peer-reviewed?
  - If your source is peer-reviewed, it means that the article has already been assessed by a third-party reviewer who has deemed it suitable for publication. It is typically more credible than an article that had not been peer-reviewed.

- Has this source been published in a reputable journal?
  - Some dubious journals are "pay-to-publish," which means their contents can be lower-quality or inaccurate. To verify that your source is legitimately published, make sure that the journal is **not** featured on Beall's List of Potential Predatory Journals and Publishers

For more information, make an appointment for your course with one of our content tutors. All appointments are available in-person at the Student Success Center, located in the Library, or online.

The UAH library has many different resources to help students navigate the library system. Two of the best ways to learn the library are:

1. One-on-One Research Consultations & Appointments: meet with a librarian to get to know the library, either in-person or online! Check out their page here: https://www.uah.edu/library/research/one-on-one

2. Subject Specialists: subject-specific specialists that are the knowledge bases for their fields. You can contact them with questions at any time. Find the full list of subject specialists here: https://www.uah.edu/library/research/subject-specialists