

CTC Tips and Strategies: Finding Reliable Information on the Web

The Internet has brought with it an easily accessible wealth of knowledge. When doing research, however, not all of the available information may be applicable or trustworthy. The process of sifting through source after source of unnecessary information can often be tedious and time consuming. Following are a few launching pads for finding reliable technical information on the web. Obviously, the number of quality sites is limitless, but hopefully these will help start you on the right track.

University of Iowa Engineering Library

<http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/eng/>

Powered by the engineering library here at the University of Iowa, this site offers assistance on a vast array of topics. Links to professional organizations, engineering libraries at other institutions, and databases of journals and periodicals are just a few of the topics covered.

Online Databases of Journal Publications

These sites offer abstracts and references to journal articles. Occasionally, full text versions are available.

EBSCOhost http://search.epnet.com/	Engineering Village2 http://www.ei.org/ev2/ev2.home
Wilson Web http://hwwilsonweb.com/	Infomine http://infomine.ucr.edu/ INFOMINE is a virtual resource library intended for university-level users. It includes databases, e-books, articles, and links to applicable web pages.

While there is no shortage of information on the Internet, there is a shortage of good information. Use the following questions to help determine if the site in question is worthy of use. Remember that the reliability of your document rests on the trustworthiness of your sources.

1. Ownership
 - Who posted or published the site?
 - Is the publishing body an expert in their field?
2. Authorship
 - What person or organization is the author of the site?
 - Does the site contain biographical information about the author?
 - What previous research, etc. has the author been involved in?
 - Can you use a search engine to determine other references to the author's credentials?
3. Usefulness
 - Is the site well constructed?
 - Is the information well written?
 - Are the claims presented supported by evidence?
 - Are there any sources cited?
4. Timeliness
 - When was the site created?
 - When was the site last updated?