

A Leader's Guide to Supporting Young People with Research

Researching online is a key skill for young people to develop. The Internet provides access to a wealth of information to expand their knowledge. Here are some top tips and suggested sites to help young people get the most out of researching online.

Tips to online research

Top Tip 1: Use specific terms

Top Tip 2: Use quotation marks for exact phrases

Top Tip 3: Look at the source of the information...

Once you've hit the search button and Google displays your results, have a good look at the source of each bit of information. Remember that some sites are more factual than others. Commercial websites (ending in .com) and blogs are more likely to reveal bias information and opinions. Looking at the source of information online can help you separate facts from fiction. The following websites are more likely to provide more reliable information:

- Educational sites: ending in .edu
- Government sites: ending in .gov (helpful when looking for official information like policies or statistics)
- Non-profit organizations: ending in .org

Search engines and research sites for young people

Kiddle – This is a search engine especially designed for younger audiences. It will show results that are child-friendly and in your specific language. The website filters the results so they are appropriate for young people



Kidrex – Another search engine specifically geared to young people



National Geographic for Kids – A great site to learn about places and animals from all over the world

Fact Monster – An educational reference site made especially for students, teachers and parents

Encyclopedia Britannica – Aimed more towards older young people, the site is a useful source when looking for well-researched general knowledge

News sources for young people

First News – A weekly newspaper developed specifically for young people that offers digital editions too

Newsround – The BBC's news source for children, featuring news, fun facts, stories, videos and quizzes