Be a Knowledge Warrior
FAQ for Doing Research

1) "How do I know if this webpage, article, or book is any good?"
Ask yourself these three questions:

Who wrote it? Reputable authors will be known for their research in the field and often are <u>affiliated</u> with an established university or corporation. Webpages should cite their sources if their content is not original. Look at the <u>domain</u> for clues to authorship—.com for commercial/business, .org for organization, .mil for military, .gov for government, and there are many more. Beware! Some websites may be <u>biased</u> and only include the information that supports their point-of-view. Examples: http://www.peta.org and http://www.philipmorrisusa.com

When was it written? Check the copyright date in a book or find out when the webpage was last updated. It's important to stay <u>current</u> in the fields of medicine, technology, and law.

Has it been reviewed? Peer-reviewed journals, or refereed journals, only publish articles which have been reviewed by other experts in that particular field. The process helps eliminate redundant, discredited or unsubstantiated information.

Need to know more?? Ask a librarian or see http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/evidence.html or http://www.lclark.edu/~writing/electronic/electronic.htm

Here's a Checklist to get started

	GOOD	OK	GARBAGE
AUTHORSHIP			
CURRENCY			
PEER-REVIEWED			

2) "Isn't Google the same as using those library pages?" NO!
Library databases have information that you can't get on the Internet.

Credibility: Articles in databases are from respected publishers. Anyone can put up a webpage and make bad or incomplete information look professional.

Stability: Databases usually are cumulative and the content is stable. On the web, stuff appears and disappears without any notice. Dead links mean the site is less credible.

Searchability: Databases organize material by subject area—medical, newspapers, education, etc. This allows greater precision and eliminates many irrelevant hits.

3) "If I find it on the web, it's OK to copy it." NO!
Copyright law protects all works, regardless if it's a book, printed article, movie, song, or webpage. (This is why Napster was shut down—too many people sharing illegal copies of songs.) You can use part of a work but you must give credit to the author. For a fun intro to copyright, check out this awesome video from the Stanford Fair Use Project.

http://cyberlaw.stanford.edu/documentary-film-program/film/a-fair-y-use-tale

MABEE LIBRARY RESOURCES

http://mabee.sterling.edu **is the library homepage with these links:**

CATALOG ONLINE
Find **books, DVDs, CDs, and journals in Mabee Library** Dewey Decimal system (DDC) organizes the collection by call number

Home > ACADEMICS > Resources

MABEE LIBRARY

▶ ACADEMICS
▶ Academic Departments
▶ Academic Catalog
▶ Resources

Catalog Online   Journals--print & online   Databases Online
eSterling FAQ   Research FAQs   InterLibrary Loan

The Mabee Library serves as a gateway to global information resources,

JOURNALS—print & online
JournalFinder –look up journals by title, ISSN, or subject. All titles are full-text for the years listed.
JournalFinder also includes the print holdings of Mabee Library.
Mabee Library offers Web access to some of its journals. They are listed on this page.

DATABASES Online
Select a database—General or Subject-specific—and search for **articles**
Off campus access requires your Sterling username and password (same as Sterling email)

eSterling FAQ
The eSterling student's guide to using Mabee Library

Research FAQs
Printable handouts listing resources for most popular classes— World Civ, Intro to Old & New Testament, etc.

Interlibrary Loan (ILL)
Need books/articles not owned by Mabee Library? Use KLC (Kansas Library Catalog) and **WorldCat**.
Search by subject, title, etc. and place an online order for an item. Mabee Library emails you when the item arrives. Normally there is no charge for borrowing from other libraries.
SHORT-CUT to request journal articles: Email citations from databases to **mabee@sterling.edu**

Mabee Library Print Collection (See CATALOG reference above.)

STACKS
Most items are in this collection. All high-quality, peer-reviewed items are marked with this label.
REFERENCE
Encyclopedias, dictionaries, atlases—are used to find factual information on a subject.

Peer-reviewed

RCL

PERIODICAL – SERIAL – JOURNAL – MAGAZINE
The words **"Periodical"** and **"Serial"** are used interchangeably.
Popular Magazines - Serials that target general audiences with popular or current stories.
Content is not peer-reviewed. **Journal** articles are written by **scholars or experts** for people with a serious interest in the topic. These are usually **peer-reviewed**.
All current issues are in the center aisle (Pavilion). All back issues are in STACKS.

Citation Style Guides	Mabee Library copy	Websites
APA guide	**808 .02 P96p 2009 6TH Edition - REFERENCE**	**Sterling College Writing Center** http://www.sterling.edu/academics/resources/writing-center
MLA guide	**808 .02 G35m 2009 7th Edition – REFERENCE**	**Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL)** http://owl.english.purdue.edu/
Chicago Manual of Style	**808 .02 C43c 1993 – REFERENCE**	
Turabian	**808 .02 T84m 1996 – REFERENCE**	**Univ. of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Writing Center** http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/index.html

Visit the Writing Center in Mabee Library for more assistance.