



Using the Internet

Anyone can publish on the web, therefore website information is often unreliable. Only a very limited amount of scholarly information is available on the open web. Therefore, use Google and sites such as Wikipedia with caution, if at all.

However, there is a lot of useful information on the websites of government departments, professional organisations and university repositories.

An institutional repository collects and stores the intellectual output of that university so that it is freely available via the Internet such as Bolton's UBIR . You can find reports, statistics, legislation, commentary on current events, etc. There is a list of useful sites on the Internet tab of your subject resources page or your lecturer may recommend suitable websites.

Every website has a unique link to identify it, this is the URL. The URL provides clues about the type of website you are looking at. A company's name will often form part of the URL, e.g. <http://www.bbc.co.uk>. Less serious websites will tend to have less serious names! The domain part of the URL indicates the type of organisation, such as .co, a recognised company; .gov, a government department; or .ac, education provider. A domain name such as .com can be adopted by anyone and must be treated with caution. The last part of the URL refers to the host country, so .uk is UK based, .au is Australia, .in is India, etc.

It is important that you have the skills to evaluate the quality of any websites that you wish to use for your academic research. You must be able to distinguish between a website written by an industry expert compared to something written by a first year undergraduate, or even someone writing a hoax website!

Access LEAP Online at: www.bolton.ac.uk/leaponline