Library Research Guides by Subject and for Courses are created to assist students in learning to use information resources effectively and thus achieve one of the Ohio Dominican University Learning Outcomes. According to the second Intellectual Skill of the Ohio Dominican University Learning Outcomes, students are to locate, evaluate, use, and properly cite multiple information resources across media, and they are to generate information through inquiry and utilize it in academic work. This is reflected in the ACRL Information Literacy Framework and Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education.

Pursuant to this driving principle of the Library Research Guides, sources are typically selected from a variety of media and locations and serve a variety of information functions and audiences. Also reflective of the information literacy role of these guides, librarians typically include documents and links to offer guidance in the locating, evaluating, use, and citing of various information sources (e.g., tips, tutorials, and options for personal assistance).

Information resources are carefully selected with respect to the aforementioned learning outcome and university curriculum, often in collaboration with faculty. Sources suited to discipline-specific research are included in the Research Guides; sources suited to particular courses and/or assignments are included in the Library’s Course Research Guides. The scope of resources selected and the organization of those resources are determined by principles of information literacy, instructional design, web design, and cognitive load. Additionally, Course Research Guide content is based on course learning outcomes from course syllabi where applicable; applicable student learning outcomes are posted on the home page of each Course Research Guide.

Information resources are selected based on type & quality of content, currency, relevancy, appropriateness, and usability. Sources for selection are therefore typically characterized by one or more of the following:

- Scholarly site
- Research site
- Data site
- E-text collection
- Professional/trade association related to a major or program
- Professional/trade site that speak to a research component
- News site if applicable to the discipline and/or assignment
- Government site if applicable to the discipline and/or assignment

Due to the need for us to keep our research guides focused academically on ODU and to maintain these guides with a manageable amount of links, it is our policy to not link to the following:

- Any degree sites
- Most commercial sites
- Most sites that are not scholarly, academic, or research based
- Any site that makes claims or presents data but does not cite appropriate references, as determined by the librarian creating and/or managing the guide
- Any site that is not written by an author with appropriate authority and/or credentials in the field represented in the writing, as determined by the librarian creating and/or managing the guide