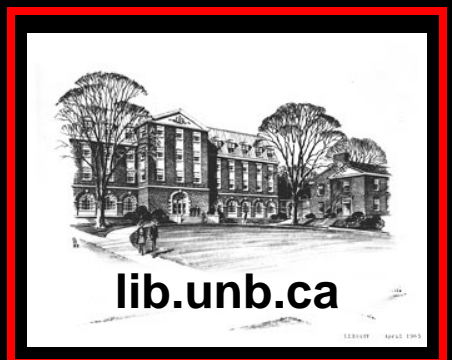


Wiki**o**g**l**e**o**p**i**a vs. YOUR LIBRARY

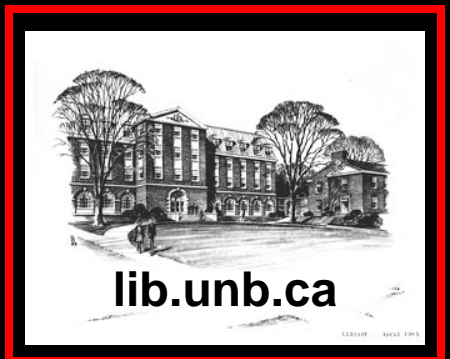
*Helping Your Students Become
Critical Researchers*

**Barry Cull & James Mackenzie
STLHE 29th Annual Conference
June 19, 2009 – UNB, Fredericton**



“Wikipedia is the best thing ever”

**“Students ignored faculty’s warnings
about using Wikipedia”**



Session Outline:

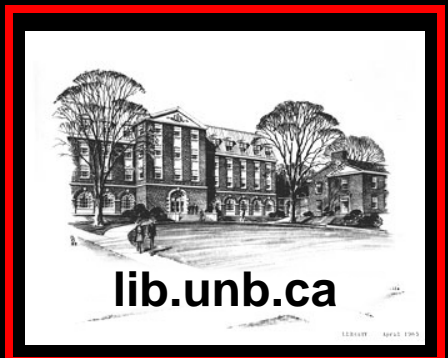
- 1. Wikipedia: Pros and Cons**
- 2. The Google “Sisters”: Scholar & Books**

vs.

- 3. Library e-Reference Tools**
- 4. Library e-Journals, e-Books & Print**

Let your students come to their own conclusions....

- 5. Student Pre-Evaluation Exercise**



Wikipedia

- “the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit”
- New application, old concept
- Don’t hide the steak knives!
- Battle of Thermopylae

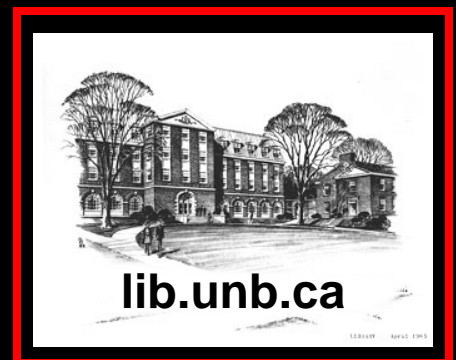
Google Scholar / Books

- **“Stand on the shoulders of giants”**
- **Search Utopia**
- **The high cost of meta-search**
- **The missing links...**

Library e-Reference Tools

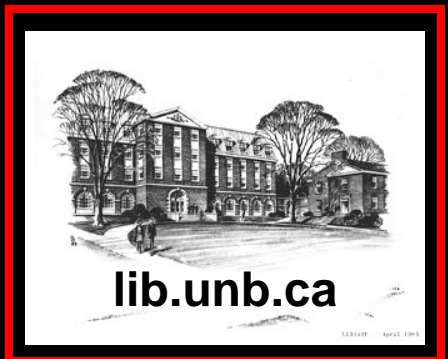
1. Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology
2. Blackwell Reference Online
3. Encyclopedia of Life Sciences
4. OED Online

**One-stop shopping (almost):
subject guides: an example**



e-Journals, e-Books & Books

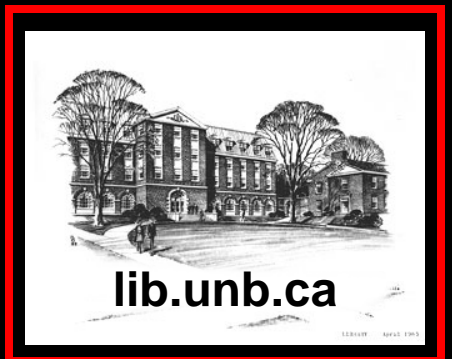
- 1. Most academic libraries have extensive e-journal collections: UNB's, for example**
- 2. Most academic libraries also have significant e-book collections: UNB's, for example**
- 3. *And most academic libraries still buy print books too!***



Wiki**o**g**l**e**o**p**i**a vs. YOUR LIBRARY

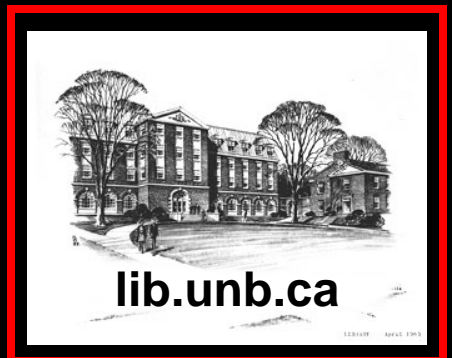
So, which provides the best information?

Let your students come to their own conclusions...



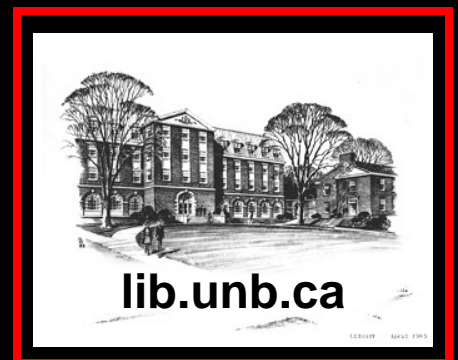
Student Group Exercise: Pre-Evaluation

Imagine you are writing a research paper related to the topic of *reading*. You have found many publications related to the topic, including the one in your hands....

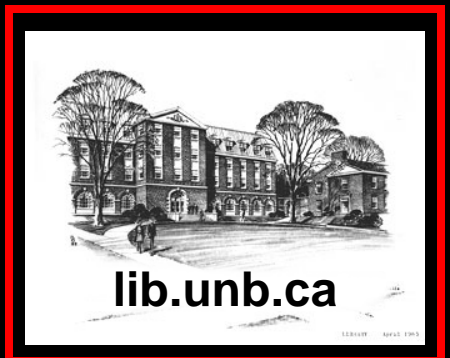


As a group, answer these two questions:

- 1. What type of publication is it? (e.g., book, journal article, website, etc.)**
- 2. Would you refer to it in a research paper? Why or why not? (Especially consider its *reliability*.)**



1. *Reading (process)*
2. *Reading on Screen: The New Media Sphere*
3. *Proust and the Squid: The Story and Science of the Reading Brain*
4. *Reading and the Reading Class in the Twenty-First Century*





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