

**Dimensions and use of the scholarly information environment.**

**Question 22: Table 604**

[Digital Library Federation.](#)

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**Table 604**

**Q22. How do you determine the authoritativeness of the information you receive from the Internet? That is, how do you decide how much it should influence your current thinking?**

	Base	Faculty Member	Graduate Student	Faculty / Graduate Student	Under Graduate Student	Public	Private	Liberal Arts	Biological Sciences	Physical Sciences	Social Sciences	Arts & Humanities	Engineering	Business	Law	Undecided Major	Male	Female
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
Base - Use the Internet	1046	302	333	635	410	433	276	336	150	175	295	207	44	131	10*	33*	599	447
Don't Know/Refused	94	14	34	48	46	46	18	31	11	10	32	18	5	11	1	6	47	47
	9	4.6	10.3	7.6	11.2	10.5	6.4	9.2	7	5.7	10.8	8.6	11.9	8.5	11.7	18.2	7.8	10.6
Base - Total Responding	952	288	299	587	365	388	259	305	140	165	263	189	39	120	9*	27*	552	400
Only reference known sources	181	63	64	127	55	76	51	55	30	32	51	29	6	29	1	4	109	73
	19.1	22	21.3	21.6	15	19.5	19.7	17.9	21.4	19.4	19.3	15.4	14.3	24	15.1	14.8	19.7	18.2
Check with alternative sources	133	43	37	80	53	43	35	56	16	26	38	29	5	14	1	5	66	67
	14	14.8	12.4	13.6	14.6	11	13.4	18.3	11.3	15.8	14.3	15.4	12.8	11.6	7.5	18.5	12	16.8
Trust the author	124	46	29	74	50	41	38	46	18	25	26	28	7	16	2	2	80	44
	13	15.9	9.5	12.7	13.7	10.5	14.5	15	12.6	15.2	10	14.8	18.8	13.2	24.5	7.4	14.5	11
Trust the sponsoring organization/publisher	85	42	29	70	15	38	22	25	17	13	17	19	4	12	2	1	53	32
	8.9	14.4	9.5	11.9	4.1	9.8	8.6	8.2	11.9	7.9	6.4	10.1	11.3	10.1	22.6	3.7	9.6	8.1
Trust the web site	79	24	24	48	31	27	27	25	11	14	19	15	6	12	2	2	44	35
	8.3	8.4	8	8.2	8.5	7	10.5	8.1	7.5	8.5	7.1	7.7	14.3	10.1	17	7.4	7.9	8.8
Only reference academic sources provided by an accredited institution	67	16	25	41	26	25	22	20	11	17	19	9	1	8	1	1	42	25
	7.1	5.4	8.4	6.9	7.2	6.4	8.5	6.7	8.2	10.3	7.1	4.7	1.5	7	11.3	3.7	7.6	6.2
Peer reviewed	61	21	23	44	17	28	14	19	15	13	13	11	4	5	0	0	36	25
	6.4	7.3	7.7	7.5	4.7	7.3	5.5	6.1	10.7	7.9	5	5.9	10.5	3.9	1.9	0	6.6	6.2
Only reference sites recommended by colleague or peer	44	8	21	29	15	16	14	14	5	4	13	15	1	5	0	1	26	19
	4.7	2.9	6.9	4.9	4.2	4	5.5	4.7	3.8	2.4	5	7.7	3.8	3.9	1.9	3.7	4.7	4.6
Base it on my own opinions	38	23	7	30	9	16	10	13	6	6	6	12	1	7	0	1	27	11
	4	8	2.3	5.1	2.3	4	3.8	4.2	4.4	3.6	2.1	6.5	1.5	5.4	0	3.7	5	2.7
Depends on source/information	34	14	13	28	7	19	9	7	6	8	9	7	1	3	1	0	21	14
	3.6	5	4.4	4.7	1.9	4.8	3.5	2.3	4.4	4.8	3.6	3.6	1.5	2.3	7.5	0	3.7	3.4
Trust the library/collection	28	6	14	20	9	21	3	4	8	5	6	4	1	3	0	1	10	18
	3	2	4.7	3.4	2.3	5.4	1.3	1.3	5.7	3	2.1	2.4	3	2.3	3.8	3.7	1.8	4.6
Ask around	25	2	10	12	13	13	4	8	4	7	6	3	2	1	0	2	12	13
	2.6	0.7	3.4	2.1	3.4	3.4	1.4	2.5	2.5	4.2	2.1	1.8	6	0.8	0	7.4	2.2	3.1
Trust if it is fee based site	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
	0.1	0	0	0	0.3	0	0	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.7	0.2	0
Other	169	50	42	92	77	64	47	58	26	23	47	44	7	16	2	5	93	76
	17.7	17.3	14.2	15.7	21	16.4	18.3	18.9	18.2	13.9	17.9	23.1	18	13.2	20.8	18.5	16.8	19
Not concerned with authoritativeness	62	8	15	23	39	24	13	25	5	8	19	13	1	12	1	3	44	18
	6.5	2.8	5.1	4	10.6	6.2	5	8.2	3.8	4.8	7.1	7.1	2.3	10.1	5.7	11.1	8	4.5