Should I use books, articles, websites, or all three?

- To begin, check the assignment requirements. Sometimes professors specify whether books, articles, or websites should be used, and how many of each.

- Characteristics of Books
  - Books can be printed or electronic. They are the longest of the three options and contain a lot of information in one source. Books are good to use for broad topics or to get an overview or survey about a subject. Books take the longest to publish. Even new books may not research that is as current as research in articles and websites. Not all books are considered to be scholarly sources.

- Characteristics of Websites
  - The content of websites can vary greatly. They generally have short, current pieces of information. To check on the website’s currency, look for a last-updated date, often located at the bottom of the website. Websites are often helpful when looking for statistical information. They are easily updated so it is important to evaluate websites for credibility before using them.

- Characteristics of Articles
  - Articles are usually published in periodicals, also known as journals, magazines, and newspapers. Articles are typically less than 30 pages long. Articles are published faster than books so they are a good place to get current research.