Researching topic #19 -- On line media – websites, blogs, social media

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This prompt offers two kinds of help:

-- A brief overview of the kinds of questions you might wish to explore as you study how climate change is likely to affect the food supply;

-- A suggested strategy for how to search the literature as you prepare to write your paper.

OVERVIEW – How on line media covers climate change

The internet has proven to be anything but what its scientific first users had hoped it to be, a neutral and objective vehicle for the exchange of sound information. It is, instead, a site for information and disinformation (aka "alternative facts" or "fake news"), venting, trolling and *ad hominem* attacks, individual believers in all sorts of things finding their "tribe" and having their beliefs "confirmed," reinforced, amplified.

What do you see when you feed "climate change" into a youtube search window? Into google? Facebook?

When you do this, be sure to read down into the "comments" section of the websites.

NOTE: The first set of resources I typically recommend for doing the research (those listed on the next page, page 2) will not be particularly helpful for this topic. I suggest you move directly to the resources listed on pp 3 and 4.

SUGGESTED STRATEGY FOR SEARCHING THE LITERATURE

I recommend the following sequence for searching the literature:

1 Start with a search of the most recent **reports from top scientific bodies and government agencies**;
2 Search **academic articles** using Google Scholar (scholar.google.com);
3 Do a **more general search** using Google or another search engine;
4 Search the **best newspapers** and **reputable climate websites**.
(NOTE that I do not suggest using Wikipedia.)

1 Search the most recent **reports from top scientific bodies and government agencies**

(NOTE: There are many excellent reports one can consult. You will find a lot of repetition, so you do not need to consult every source. Here I start with a handful of the most recent reports, followed by a more complete list.)

These publications should, in most cases, supply you with all you need:

IPCC's most recent full set of reports:
https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/
EPA: https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/climate-impacts/climate-impacts-society_.html
U.S. Global Change Research Program:
https://science2017.globalchange.gov/ (the science)
https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/ (the impacts)
American Meteorological Society:
www.ametsoc.net/sotc2017/StateoftheClimate2017_lowres.pdf

A more complete list of best scientific and governmental sources:

International
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)
World Meteorological Organization

Agencies of the U.S. federal government
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
U.S. Global Change Research Program

Scientific bodies – U.S.
National Academic of Sciences
Climate Change at the National Academies (climatechange@nas.edu)
National Science Foundation

Other professional bodies – American Meteorological Society

2 Search **academic articles** using Google Scholar (scholar.google.com)

(NOTE: Narrow and focus your search by using several phrases in quotes – such as "climate change". For example, if you are searching for how climate change will increase the frequency of extreme weather events, don't just enter "climate change," search, instead for" "climate change" AND "extreme weather events")

Search terms to use (you may certainly choose others):

"climate change" AND x, where x can be:

On line
Internet
Blogs
Youtube
Facebook
Websites

(NOTE: For some citations you find on Google Scholar, you can directly download the PDF. For other citations, you may be able to find and download PDFs if your University library offers on line access to academic journals.)

3 Do a **more general search** using Google or another search engine

Use the same search terms to do a general search on Google or another search engine. This will bring up information more recent than you find on scholar.google.com (it takes several years for research to be published in academic journals).

4 Search the **best newspapers** and **reputable climate websites**

New York Times, Washington Post, The Guardian

On line sources

Climate Central
GRIST
Society of Environmental Journalists
The Daily Climate
Climate Nexus
InsideClimate News
DeSmogBlog
Skepticalscience.com
Yale 350

(NOTE about on line sources: You will run into a lot of denialist disinformation on the internet, on websites, on blogs, on youtube. FYI, skepticalscience.com has a comprehensive list of denialist talking points (and refutations of those talking points). See, for example: https://www.skepticalscience.com/argument.php)

Finally, here are some good citations to help you get started:

Look for journal articles or newspaper articles that explore how, in general, the internet fosters political and cultural tribalism, "group think" or "echo chambers" that reinforce one's beliefs or fosters, even, increasingly extreme ideas.

Some, perhaps useful sources:

NYTimes article 9/8/2018 on youtube algorithm that suggest to youtube consumers increasingly extreme videos

Lewandowsky, et al, "NASA Faked the Moon Landing—Therefore, (Climate) Science Is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science," *Psychological Science* 24(5) 622–633, 2013.

-- PDF can be downloaded from scholar.google.com