



Crime Prevention Tips

Finding Crime Prevention Resources



Crime Prevention . . . a community responsibility

Researching a topic, especially on the Internet, may be overwhelming. Crime prevention topics are no different. One of the greatest challenges is finding information that is reliable, accurate, and timely.

So how do you begin your search? First you must go through a brief exercise to determine specifically what resources you are looking for and what you want to do with these resources once you've found them.

A resource generally fulfills a specific need. So the question then becomes "What is the specific need?" Before you begin searching for a resource, you must determine the question or questions that need to be answered. Once you have the question broken down to its most basic components, you can begin searching for the answers.

Starting Points...

Your own personal experience

Can you think of a time when you have dealt with a similar situation and how it was resolved?
(Remember that this is just a starting point)

Governing Bodies

Can you think of any governing bodies that might regulate the issues at hand (i.e.: Consumer Protection BC, BC Securities Commission, etc.) These agencies often publish manuals designed to deal with the issue at hand and most of them are available online.

Local Public Library

Your local public library is an excellent starting point for finding resources because they have reference librarians who can help you with your research.

These librarians can be accessed via telephone and e-mail, as well. Visit www.vpl.vancouver.bc.ca and click on 'Ask a Librarian'.

Resident Expert

If you don't know a resident expert on the subject at hand, many experts will publish magazine articles on their field of expertise in a law enforcement trade journal such as the RCMP Gazette, Police Chief Magazine, etc.

Trade Journals (Searching online databases such as Canadian News Stand)

These magazines publish back issues on their websites, and you can also search online databases through your local public library website. Your local public library pays the licensing fee to search online-journal-databases for recent articles on a specific topic. These articles may provide the most up-to-date information on the topic, along with the names of the experts in the field. All you need is a library card, and you can search every newspaper published in Canada, as well as thousands of trade journals.

Educating yourself is the best defense against crime.

More crime prevention tips: www.bccpa.org



Crime Prevention Tips

Finding Crime Prevention Resources



Crime Prevention ... a community responsibility

Special Libraries

A special library is a library that only collects resources on one specific topic. Listed below are websites you can use to find resources on a specific subject.

- BC Outlook Online - (Union catalogue of BC public and academic libraries)
- Canadian Special Libraries - (links to library catalogues by topic)
- Ementalhealth.ca - (links to mental health resources throughout the province)
- Indian and Northern Affairs Departmental Library
- Xwi7xwa Library - (Compendium of First Nations resources from the University of BC)

Amazon.com

Amazon has set the benchmark for finding and evaluating resources with their reviews, access to table-of-contents, as well as excerpts from books.

Internet

The Internet is one of the easiest places to research a topic nowadays. But the challenge is, how do you wade through the volume of material to find information that is both accurate and relevant? The best place to start is by using one or more of the Internet search engines such as Google, Yahoo, Bing, and Ask. Then do a Boolean Search.

What is Boolean Search?

Definition (Source: About.com)

Boolean searches allow you to combine words and phrases using the words AND, OR, NOT and NEAR (otherwise known as Boolean operators) to limit, widen, or define your search. Most Internet search engines and Web directories default to these Boolean search parameters anyway, but a good Web searcher should know how to use basic Boolean operators. To learn more visit: www.about.com (type in "Boolean Search")

Evaluating Resources

Use these tips to help evaluate the quality of the resources that you have found:

- Timeliness - when was it created?
- Who is the author? (Google the author)
- Accuracy (Is the information factual?)
- Objectivity (Is the author biased?)
- Who is the target audience? (age, gender, background, etc.)
- Table of contents (the quickest way to evaluate a book)
- Media Format (website, PowerPoint, book, journal, etc.)
- URL (Who owns the website?)

USEFUL WEBSITES

National Crime Prevention Centre

<http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/>

B.C. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

<http://www.gov.bc.ca/pssg/>

RCMP www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Crime Prevention Ottawa

www.crimepreventionottawa.ca/

Public Safety (Government of Canada)

<http://www.safecanada.ca/>

University of Ottawa Institute for the Prevention of Crime

<http://www.socialsciences.uottawa.ca/ipc/eng/index.asp>

More crime prevention tips: www.bccpa.org