**Section Four:**

**Finding and Using Sources**

**4.1. Collecting Sources**

The process of collecting sources is not always an easy task. The variety of materials and the absence of clear criteria of selection may make this task rather challenging and boring sometimes. This process which is called literature review “involves systematically identifying, locating, and analyzing documents containing information related to the research problem. These documents can include articles, abstracts, reviews, monographs, dissertations, books, other research reports, and electronic media” (Gay & Airasian, 2003, as cited in Robson & McCartan, 2016, p.52). The most widely used kinds of sources are the following:

**4.1.1. Books.** A book is a written work printed or electronic which contains information about a given subject or a collection of subjects. It is composed of many pages bound together with a front and back cover. Books, whether in the printed or electronic format, are the most commonly used sources partly because they are easy to find. A book has a *title*, *author*, *date of publication* and *publisher*. Let us consider this example:

David, Nunan. (1992). *Research methods in language learning.* Cambridge University Press.

* David Nunan: Author;
* (1992): date of publication;
* *Research methods in language learning:* title of book;
* Cambridge University Press: publisher.

**4.1.2. Articles in periodicals (magazines, journals and newspapers).** An article is a piece of writing about a specific topic by one or more authors which appears in a periodical together with other compositions. Articles may appear in newspapers, magazines or journals. A newspaper is a daily or weekly publication that contains news and information about diverse subjects. Journal articles differ from magazine articles in basic things. The former are written about specialized subjects and are reviewed by experts in the field (such as the field of language teaching and learning), where as the latter can be written by journalists, for instance, about general topics. Consequently, the audience of magazine articles is broader and more general than that of journal articles. When citing articles in periodicals, both volume and issue numbers are required. The former refers to the yearly-numbered publication of the periodical i.e. if we have 10 volumes it means that the journal has been circulating for 10 years. The issue, however, designate the number of times the periodical has been released during that year for example, monthly, quarterly, etc. Let us consider the following example:

Lin, M. H., Groom, N. & Lin, C.-Y. (2013). Blog-assisted learning in the ESL writing classroom: A phenomenological analysis. *Educational Technology & Society*, *16(*3), 130–139.

* Lin, M. H., Groom, N. & Lin, C.-Y: the article authors;
* (2013): date of publication;
* Blog-assisted learning in the ESL writing classroom: A phenomenological analysis: the article title;
* Technology *& Society*: the title of the periodical.
* *16,* 3: volume and issue numbers.
* *130*–139: page numbers.

**4.1.3. Online sources.** Online or internet sources are used in research in parallel with print sources. An online source is any material that can be found online. The information can be taken from web pages, websites, blogs, forums, etc. There are also online periodicals and E-books. Online sources are retrieved from websites (URL), digital objects identifiers (DOI) or data bases. Let us consider the following examples:

Liu, J. (2020). Online teaching practice and reflection based on the perspective of learners. *International Journal of Frontiers in Sociology*, 2(3), 50-60, DOI: 10.25236/IJFS.2020.020306

* Liu, J.: article’s author;
* (2020): date of publication;
* Online teaching practice and reflection based on the perspective of learners: title of article;
* *International Journal of Frontiers in Sociology*: title of journal;
* 2(3): volume and issue numbers;
* 50-60: page numbers;
* DOI: 10.25236/IJFS.2020.020306: Digital Object Identifier.

Beckwith, J., & Foley, D. (2012). Music composition. In The Canadian Encyclopedia. Retrieved from <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/articles/music-composition>

* Beckwith, J., & Foley, D: authors;
* 2012: date of publication;
* Music composition: entry title;
* The Canadian Encyclopedia: online encyclopedia;
* <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/articles/music-composition>: URL.

Landscape gardening. (2004). In K. Barber (Ed.), The Canadian Oxford dictionary (2nd ed.). Retrieved from Oxford Reference Online database.

* Landscape gardening: entry title;
* (2004): date of publication;
* K. Barber: editor;
* The Canadian Oxford dictionary: online dictionary;
* Oxford Reference Online database: data base.

It is noteworthy to mention that there are some drawbacks associated with online resources like information overload and accuracy (OʼHara, 2005).

* ***Identifying the type of the source facilitates its use.***