Using Wikipedia for Academic Research video transcript

00:17
Do you know that you can use Wikipedia when doing academic research? Wikipedia?
00:20
Yep, Wikipedia. You shouldn't cite Wikipedia as a source in your research paper. And no, it's not because Wikipedia is a bad source for information. The reason you shouldn't use it as a source for your paper is because it is just an Encyclopedia. College-level work requires more sophisticated source materials such as books and journal articles. In fact, a 2005 study by the journal Nature showed that Wikipedia is as accurate as Encyclopedia Britannica. If you shouldn't cite Wikipedia in your paper how can you use it for academic research? When you know more about your topic, you can use that information when you search in other places like the Internet and the Library. As you read through a Wikipedia entry write down: topic phrases, names of
organizations, names of people, relevant dates, and related items or issues. The reason for this is to generate a list of keywords and phrases you can use when searching for sources on your topic. For example here's the entry for gamma-ray bursts and here is a list of keywords and related terms for the entry:
gamma-ray, GRBs, electromagnetic events, supernova. You can use these keywords to search the web, your library catalog, databases, and other Resources. While Wikipedia entries can be edited by anyone they do include citations with links to the original information. Citations can link to web pages, articles, books, and a variety of other sources. You can see a list of the citations used at the end of a Wikipedia article in the references section. If the citations are for articles and books, do any authors seem to be listed several
times? Bloom would be a good example in this list. Save their names your list of keywords. When you click on a reference Link, it takes you to the original source. In this case an article on naked-eye observations from Astrophysical Journal is used as a reference. This article in many other references in this list could be great sources to use in your paper. Do not assume that everything in this list is peer-reviewed or scholarly, you will need to evaluate each source to be sure its suits the needs of your assignment. At the end of the Wikipedia entry, you'll also find a list of External Links. These are typically links to related information such as websites, projects, and organizations. In this case, a mission website from NASA on observing gamma-ray Bursts. While you wouldn't use Wikipedia as a source for your paper, you can see
02:50 how it can lead to many quality books,
02:52 articles, magazines, news reports, and
02:54 websites that are just right. So,
02:57 Wikipedia can be used for academic
03:00 research after all. Here's a quick list
03:02 of things to remember.
03:03 Wikipedia shouldn't be used as a source
03:06 for your paper.
03:06 It is good for background information,
03:08 you can use it to create a list of
03:11 phrases, organizations, people, dates, and
03:13 related terms, use these terms when
03:16 searching for information on your topic,
03:18 look at the reference and external links
03:20 sections at the end of the Wikipedia
03:22 entries for sources you can cite in your
03:23 research.