



## Consumer Information Sources: Beyond Consumer Reports

Reviews, write-ups and ratings exist for products and service providers. Using some of these sources can lead to mixed results. In this session, we'll look at a number of different consumer information sources, as well as discussing and assessing these tools.

**Consumer Reports:** Published since 1936 the monthly magazine is available in the library both in the periodical room and at the consumer information table in reference. A yearly Buying Guide as well as a Car guide and Kitchen Appliance guide are also available. Consumerreports.org will give you a general buying guide for free but you need to purchase a subscription for the full online content.

**Boston Consumer Checkbook:** provides a semiannual magazine with ratings on local service related businesses such as plumbers, veterinarians, dentists, carpet cleaners and more. Access to the website is available through the Databases section of the WFL catalog.

**ConsumerSearch.com:** Many reviewing sites rely on user reviews which can vary in quality and thoughtfulness. This site avoids this problem by collecting reviews from various sources. Consumersearch is owned by about.com.

**Epinions.com:** From sewing machines to hot water heaters provides a wide range of products. Nice options to limit by brand and by features. Epinions is owned by ebay.

### Our Periodical Databases

Select General Reference Center Gold or General Onefile from our list of library databases.

Search by product cameras, laptops etc. Use the basic search option with keyword or subject selected.

After the initial search narrow the results using "*document type*" and select the following categories; evaluation, product/service evaluation, and buyers guides.

#### Computer Reviews

[www.pcmag.com](http://www.pcmag.com)

[www.pcworld.com](http://www.pcworld.com)

[www.cnet.com](http://www.cnet.com)

#### Automobile Reviews

[www.edmunds.com](http://www.edmunds.com)

[www.kbb.com](http://www.kbb.com)

[www.intellichoice.com](http://www.intellichoice.com)

#### Travel Reviews

[www.tripadvisor.com](http://www.tripadvisor.com)

[www.hotels.com](http://www.hotels.com)

#### Restaurant Reviews

[www.urbanspoon.com](http://www.urbanspoon.com)

[www.citysearch.com](http://www.citysearch.com)