

Question History

<p>Patron: 16:44:13 2014/03/03 (GMT -0500)</p>	Chat Transcript: Would you cite a think tank or PAC in an academic paper?
<p>Librarian: 16:44:13 2014/03/03 (GMT -0500)</p>	Note: Patron's screen name: Dominic
<p>Librarian: 16:45:11 2014/03/03 (GMT -0500)</p>	Librarian 'XXX' has joined the session.
<p>Librarian: 16:45:28 2014/03/03 (GMT -0500)</p>	Hi Dominic, I'm XXX, a librarian at YYY
<p>Librarian: 16:45:42 2014/03/03 (GMT -0500)</p>	What course is this paper for?
<p>Patron: 16:46:10 2014/03/03 (GMT -0500)</p>	Humanities research
<p>Librarian: 16:49:06 2014/03/03 (GMT -0500)</p>	Depending on how and for what reasons you're using the source, it could be acceptable to cite a think tank or PAC. So long as you acknowledge the source in the bibliography, and perhaps flag it in the text (e.g., "According to ..."), I would imagine that could be acceptable.
<p>Librarian: 16:49:23 2014/03/03 (GMT -0500)</p>	But run this past your instructor first if you have questions
<p>Patron: 16:51:53 2014/03/03 (GMT -0500)</p>	Would you recommend knowing where the think tank falls along the political spectrum and what their intended goals are? It is often hard to determine this with the language they use. I usually look at their work and their donors to ascertain but it is still tricky.
<p>Patron: 16:52:16 2014/03/03 (GMT -0500)</p>	Have you run into any issues with professors requesting students not cite think tanks?
<p>Librarian: 16:52:28 2014/03/03 (GMT -0500)</p>	A good place to check this out is their mission statement.
<p>Librarian: 16:52:34 2014/03/03 (GMT -0500)</p>	I haven't yet
<p>Librarian: 16:52:43 2014/03/03 (GMT -0500)</p>	What's the think thank?
<p>Patron:</p>	http://www.childtrends.org/

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Patron: 16:54:01 2014/03/03 (GMT -0500)	I would think it would be ok but they are also producing research that fits their mission statement. Is that research considered bias?? I would think there is some bias in it.
Librarian: 16:56:41 2014/03/03 (GMT -0500)	Yes, it would be, but it's difficult to escape bias in almost any source. Frequently in the social sciences, think tanks (and the reports they issue) are used for sources---usually qualified by "[X] institute has argued that ... " or "According to ...". But, again, I'd run this one past your instructor to check if s/he has any problem using this variety of source
Patron: 16:57:40 2014/03/03 (GMT -0500)	True. Thanks for your help.
Librarian: 16:57:57 2014/03/03 (GMT -0500)	Absolutely! Is there anything else I can help you with today?
Patron: 16:59:37 2014/03/03 (GMT -0500)	One last thing. Would you have an opinion on what research skills are lacking for incoming freshmen? My high school teacher reached out to me and wanted to see what she could improve upon.
Librarian: 17:01:51 2014/03/03 (GMT -0500)	Actually, our Information Literacy unit addresses exactly these concerns, especially working with incoming freshman.
Librarian: 17:01:53 2014/03/03 (GMT -0500)	https://www.lib.yyy.edu/infolit/information-literacy/
Librarian: 17:02:33 2014/03/03 (GMT -0500)	You should free feel to contact any of the librarians listed, insofar as they work with most incoming freshman for the WRA 100 course
Patron: 17:02:40 2014/03/03 (GMT -0500)	Ok. I will check it out. Thanks.
Librarian: 17:02:45 2014/03/03 (GMT -0500)	Definitely!
Librarian: 17:02:59 2014/03/03 (GMT -0500)	Anything else you'd like help with today?
Patron: 17:03:12 2014/03/03 (GMT -0500)	All good. Thanks!
Librarian: 17:03:32 2014/03/03 (GMT -0500)	Wonderful---thank you for using our chat reference service. Please feel free to contact us again if you have more questions or need additional assistance.
Librarian: 17:03:44 2014/03/03 (GMT -0500)	Librarian ended chat session.

Librarian:
16:50:11 2014/03/12
(GMT -0400)

Closed by Librarian # 124964.