

Alternative Viewpoints

Scholarly research is effected by factors at work in our greater society including politics, media influence, funding, interest groups, and more. These factors have an impact on the research done and how that the information disseminated. As a scholarly researcher it is important to be aware of these influences.

Consider the following:

- Funding for the majority of new research is provided by governments and corporations. How can this change depending on who is in power or what products or services are selling?
- What role does university politics including the views of the heads of departments and administrators have on research conducted?
- Which disciplines are well-funded? What disciplines are less well-funded?
- Has the research agenda in your discipline or specialization changed in the last 50 years? How so? How does this effect your research?
- What effect does tenure and other ways to confer prestige to faculty have on the research done?
- What effect does competition among scholars have on research?
- Which studies are reported in the popular media?
- What voices are not being heard? What groups are not being studied?
- Are alternative viewpoints an important part of your topic? What can you do to hear these alternative viewpoints? Alternative Press publications can be one method of finding different voices.
- How has the Internet and Web 2.0 technologies change how information is disseminated?

Further Readings:

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