

# Cheat Sheet

## NGO stands for Non-Governmental Organisation



Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) refer broadly to organisations that are not created or controlled by the government.

They are often associated with terms such as 'non-profit', 'voluntary' and 'charity-based'.



### Origin of Term

NGOs have been in existence for a long time. However, the term came to be formally used after the formation of the United Nations (UN) in 1945.

The UN Charter, under Article 71, designated certain non-state international organisations as 'non-governmental organisations', holding a consultative status.

The technical term of 'non-governmental organisations' (NGOs) caught on in popularity, particularly in the 1970s.



### Types of NGOs

- NGOs engage in different types of activities around the world. These include championing for causes relating to, and not limited to:



Humanitarian action



Environmental causes



Democracy building



Cultural preservation

- NGOs can exist at different scales – local, national, regional and international.



- They can also be either small or large, and either formal or informal.

Small

formal

Large

informal



## Numbers of NGOs

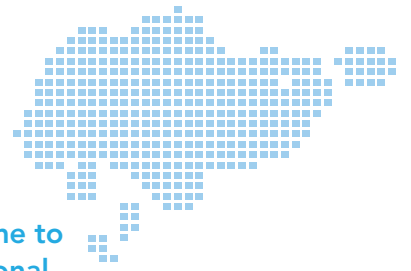
The count in number of NGOs by the Yearbook of International Organisations in 2006 reflected the existence of more than 50,000 international NGOs, a huge increase from 6,000 in 1990.

**6,000**  
in 1990.

**50,000**  
in 2006.

As of 2012,  
Singapore was home to  
**140** international  
non-profit organisations.

This includes inter-governmental organisations (IGOs) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).



## Examples of NGOs

Some examples include:



- **WWF**
- WWF stands for World Wide Fund for Nature. It is an international organisation that champions the conservation, research and restoration of the environment



- **World Vision**
- Focuses on overcoming poverty and injustice faced by children, families and communities



- **Native Planet**
- Helps preserve culture of indigenous people



- **Singapore Environmental Council**
- A Singapore-based organisation that promotes and raise awareness for environmental causes



## Searching for Information on NGOs

### A. Links and Databases

- **Singapore.sg** – 'International Organisations and NGOs in Singapore' (<http://app.singapore.sg/global-citizen/international-organisation-and-ngos-in-singapore>)
  - An official source managed by Ministry of Communications and Information, where you can find out about NGOs in Singapore
- **World Association of Non-governmental Organisations (WANGO)** (<http://www.wango.org/>)
  - A worldwide NGO directory
- **NLB E-resources** (<http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/>)
  - Access current information on NGOs through the following databases:
  - **Factiva**  
Provides news and business information on both local and international platforms
  - **Proquest ABI/INFORM Complete**  
A business database offering full-text to journals and newspapers



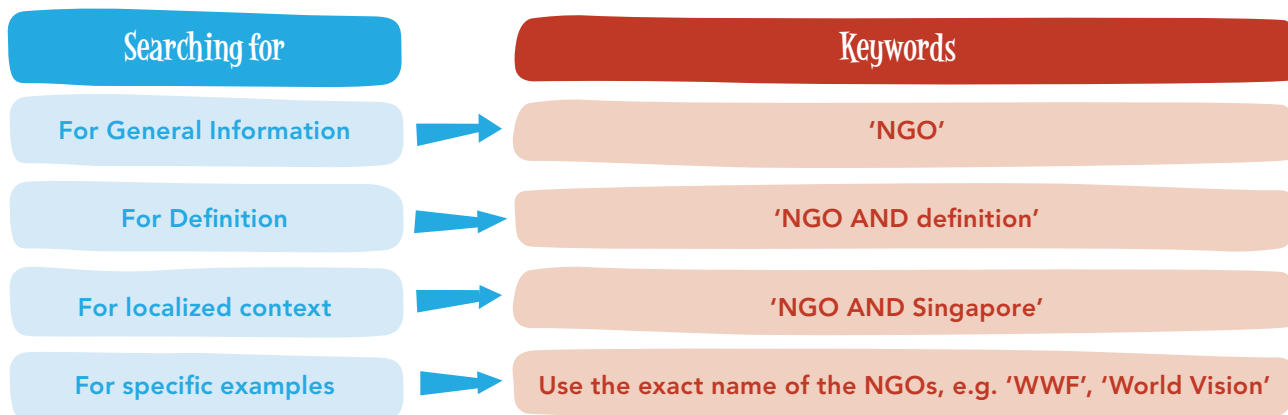
[www.facebook.com/sgsure](http://www.facebook.com/sgsure)

[sure.nl.sg](http://sure.nl.sg)



## B. Searching by keywords

Get your desired results list by identifying the search keywords



## C. Evaluating Online Sources

When searching for online sources, it will be useful to consider the following:

### i. Authority

- Check for the author of the weblink.
- Is the author credible and trustable?
- *Tip: Internationally recognized organisations such as the United Nations and publications by educational institutions tend to be more reliable.*

### ii. Accuracy

- Is the source based on credible research?
- Is the information based on facts or opinions?

### iii. Coverage

- Who is the target audience of the website?
- Does the website cover a large extent of information?

### iv. Currency

- What is the date of publication?
- Has the website been updated?

### v. Objectivity

- What are the possible intentions of the author?

#### Sources:

United Nations Rule of Law (2013) 'Non-governmental Organizations'. Retrieved from: [http://www.unrol.org/article.aspx?article\\_id=23](http://www.unrol.org/article.aspx?article_id=23) on 8 May 2013

Lewis, D. (2009) 'Nongovernmental Organizations, Definition and History' London School of Economics and Political Science. Retrieved from: <http://personal.lse.ac.uk/lewisd/images/encylciv%20societyngos2009-dl.pdf> on 8 May 2013

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