Reliable resources in phonology

1. Peer-reviewed journals

Some journals are at the top of the heap as far as carefully refereeing papers and publishing only the best. Anything you read in the top journals is likely to be reliable and valuable. However, a lot of the papers published in these journals are quite theoretical and may sometimes be over your head or very narrowly focused, so it is good to read broader materials (books, grammars) in conjunction with them. The reference sections at the ends of papers in journals can also give you good leads for other things to look at. Some examples of top-tier journals in linguistics that may have relevant material are:

- *Phonology*
- *Language*
- *Natural language and linguistic theory*
- *Linguistic Inquiry*

It’s also fine to use journals that are not absolutely top-tier. The papers in them will still have been refereed and so should have valuable material that is relatively easy to follow because it has been carefully revised.

2. Conference proceedings

Handle with caution. Papers in these proceedings are only refereed in the sense that an editor looks them over for obvious typos and incorrect references. The paper is basically accepted to the proceedings and the conference on the basis of a one-page abstract. Authors are often grad students. The most competitive of these proceedings/conferences which publish phonology are:

- *Berkeley linguistics society*
- *Chicago linguistics society*
- *Northeast linguistics society*
- *West coast conference on formal linguistics*

3. Books

Not all languages have whole books written about their phonologies, but these are usually excellent resources if they exist. You may also find books on the entire grammar of a language, with useful chapters on phonology and morphology.
4. Dissertations

The library has access to an incredibly valuable (and expensive!) resource, ProQuest Dissertations and Theses, so that you now can read thousands of dissertations online. A dissertation on the phonology or an aspect of the phonology of your language can be an excellent resource, particularly for less documented languages, for which there will be no books or a dearth of articles. You can also order dissertations that are not available digitally through Interlibrary Loan. The UW also has hard copies of all UW MA theses and PhD dissertations. However, handle with care. The accuracy and quality of dissertations can vary widely. These are not peer reviewed in the usual sense of being read by a panel of the world’s experts. Rather, they are reviewed by the dissertation committee of the author, and that committee’s expertise in the language and their attention to detail can also vary widely.

5. Linguistic encyclopedia articles

These can be a good place to start and to find additional recommendations. The ones in the Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics (2006) are by the best experts in the field and have decent-sized sections on phonology. (14 volumes in print or search online. Find information on languages and language families under the section "Languages of the World". Print located in Suzzallo Reference P216 .T73 1996). Dan Mandeville has some other smaller but good ones listed on his linguistics resource page. http://guides.lib.washington.edu/linguistics

6. Web pages

Sometimes valuable, but handle with extreme caution. Anyone can write anything, and often these pages are maintained by enthusiasts who are not linguists. The web resources listed on Dan Mandeville’s linguistics resources page are all maintained by experts and are reliable. http://guides.lib.washington.edu/linguistics