Web Resource Guide 3

Evaluating Information on the World Wide Web and Citing Electronic Information Sources

Gutman Library recommends that students visit some of the web sites listed below to gather additional information and ideas in how to critically evaluate information found on the World Wide Web.

Evaluating Web Resources
Cornell University Library
http://campusgw.library.cornell.edu/newhelp/res_strategy/evaluating/evaluate.html

Guide to Critical thinking About What You See on the Web
John Henderson, Ithaca College Library
http://www.ithaca.edu/library/Training/hott.html

The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly, or, Why It’s a Good Idea to Evaluate Web Resources
Susan Beck, New Mexico State University
http://lib.nmsu.edu/instruction/eval.html

Thinking Critically about World Wide Web Resources
Esther Grassian, UCLA College Library
http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/college/help/critical/index.htm

Teaching Critical Evaluation Skills for World Wide Web Resources
Wolfgram Memorial Library, Widener University
http://www2.widener.edu/Wolfgram-Memorial-Library/webevaluation/webeval.htm

Evaluating Web Sites
Michael Engle, Cornell University
http://www.library.cornell.edu/okuref/webeval.html

Evaluating Quality on the Net
Hope N. Tillman, Babson College
http://www.hopetillman.com/findqual.html
Using CARDS to Evaluate Internet Information

The Internet is full of all kinds of information, both good and bad. Use the CARDS method—developed by Bernetta Doane of the LaSalle University Library—to help you determine the validity of an Internet resource.


Credibility
--Is there an author(s) or producer(s)? Does the document provide credentials on the author? For example, does the author have a PhD., is the author an M.D., etc. Is there contact information for the author(s) or producer(s) of the document? Contact information could include an e-mail address and/or street address and phone number.

Accuracy
--Does the site appear to be comprehensive? Is the information included in the site complete and accurate? How does the information found in the site compare to other resources or related sites?

Relevancy
--Is there a stated purpose or is there information describing the function of the site?

Dates
--What is the date coverage for the site? When was it created? Is the site up-to-date? Are the links up-to-date?

Sources
--Does the site refer or link you to additional sites or resources? Are the links appropriate for the research topic? Are these resources easily accessible?

Guides to Citing Electronic and Internet Resources

Learning and Advising Center: see “How Do I Document Source Material?”
http://www.philau.edu/learning/index%20writing%20doc.htm

Columbia Guide to Online Style
http://www.columbia.edu/cu/cup/cgos/idx_basic.html

“Citing the Sites” – MLA Style for documenting Internet sources
http://english.ttu.edu/kairos/1.2/inbox/mla_archive.html#citing_sites

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