

How to evaluate information

LIB 1201

Monday, November 4, 2013

Critically analyzing information sources

- Initial appraisal
 - Author
 - Date, edition/revision
 - Publisher
 - Title
- Content analysis
 - Audience
 - Objective reasoning
 - Coverage
 - Style
 - Evaluative reviews

Evaluating Web Pages

- The URL
 - ~ indicating a personal page
 - Domain, country code
 - Publisher or sponsoring entity – familiar?
- Scan the page for answers
 - About
 - Date
 - Author's credentials
 - Links, footnotes, other documentation

Evaluating Web Pages, continued

- Check Wayback Machine at archive.org
- Google the author
- Truncate the URL back to the domain:

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/obsessive-compulsive-disorder-when-unwanted-thoughts-take-over/what-are-the-signs-and-symptoms-of-ocd.shtml>

Quick Guide to Evaluating Websites

- Author
- Sponsor/publisher
- Purpose
- Accuracy
- Timeliness
- Suitability
- Uniqueness

crowdsourcing evaluation criteria

- Each student creates a 3 point checklist for what to use when evaluating ANY kind of information
- Use piratepad.net so we can work collaboratively
- Determine best 3 by consensus and finalize
- We will use one checklist of the best criteria
- Checklists for the game on Wednesday

Your criteria for evaluation!

Questions to ask:

- What is the purpose of the site or page?
 - Inform, persuade, sell, etc.
- Is it irony, satire, parody?
- Is it as credible as print sources on the same topic?

Reading and homework for Wednesday, November 6

- Your research paper outline is due as an email attachment to me by the start of class
- Blogging – comment on a classmate’s blog post (either 1 100-word comment or 2 comments totaling 100 words)
- Please read Fister, “[The devil in the details: Media representation of ritual abuse and evaluation of sources](#)” and Grimmelman, “[The Google Dilemma.](#)”
- Evaluation game!