How to evaluate information

LIB 1201

Thursday, April 11, 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 (site isn’t working)

• 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:
Quick Guide to Evaluating Websites

• Author
• Sponsor/publisher
• Purpose
• Accuracy
• Timeliness
• Suitability
• Uniqueness
crowdsourcing evaluation criteria

• Each group creates a 3 point checklist for what to use when evaluating ANY kind of information
• Use sync.in 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 Tuesday
Your criteria for evaluation!

• Reliability
• Accuracy (is information correct?)
• Relevance
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 Tuesday, April 16

• 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.”

• Time permitting, we’ll play a game
CITY TECH'S 32ND ANNUAL LITERARY ARTS FESTIVAL

STUDENT PERFORMANCES & READINGS

32ND ANNUAL LITERARY ARTS FESTIVAL at City Tech

Thursday, April 18

Midway Auditorium

Free and open to all
BROOKLYN ZINE FEST
Sunday, April 21
Public Assembly
70 N. 6th Street
Brooklyn
Free & open to all!