Website Evaluation

MB Campus Library

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Library Standards!

Standard 1: An independent learner asks authentic questions and accesses, evaluates, and uses information effectively to develop new understandings.

-Conducts advanced Web searches using Boolean logic and other sophisticated search functions.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.8

Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the usefulness of each source in answering the research question; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.

Murry Bergtraum Campus Library Website

Use the library website to access a lot of great databases! The information you find in the databases has already been vetted. These are reliable sources and you can find some fantastic information! Give them a try.

https://sites.google.com/meca-nyc.org/murrybergtraumcampuslibrary/home

The website is bookmarked on ALL library computers!

What is your research topic or question?

1. Come up with some key words or phrases.

2. Find other related words (try dictionaries for synonyms)

3. Use Boolean operators when you do a search: AND, OR, NOT and using ""

AND

—

Limits your search:

Some search engines (Google) automatically assume an AND between words

i.e. Barrier and Reef

This search will return results where barrier and reef appear in the same document. The two words no not need to be together.

OR

Expands your search:

Use between words when your search is not producing enough results. Try using some of your alternative keywords.

i.e. Dogs or Canines

This search will return results where either of the two options appear.

NOT

Use this to limit your search .

i.e. Gorillas NOT Apes

This search will return results where the word gorillas is used without the word apes.

"Quotation Marks"

Use " " to look for specific phrases.

i.e. "Great Barrier Reef" will give results on the Australian coral reefs. Without quotation marks the search will find sites with all 3 words anywhere on the site.

Tips for evaluating a website:

We all know the internet is full of misleading information. Here are a few tips you can use to try to find good sources.

❏ Can you identify the author of an Internet resource? If so, what do you know about this author's education, work history, affiliations, additional publications, etc.? (Often found all the way at the bottom on an internet page.)

❏ Can you find the date the Internet resource was last updated or published?

❏ Does the Internet resource cite the work of others? (Copyright information is generally at the bottom at a web page.)

❏ Can you find the information on more than one site to help confirm it?

More tips for evaluating...

❏ Does the content of the resource seem balanced and scholarly, or is it biased?

❏ Who published the Internet resource? Was the web page published by a business, university, government organization, or professional association?

❏ What is the intended audience for the Internet resource? Is it appropriate for high school level research?

❏ What is the domain of the Internet resource? If it ends in .org, .gov, or .edu it is more likely to be a scholarly source. If it ends in .com or .net it is less likely to be a scholarly source. Click here for a comprehensive list of common domain suffixes

Fake websites

Fake sites are very common on the internet. Some of them are very good. Use the prior tips to evaluate the sites you find. Some of the fakes are very good.

Here are some of my favorites:

https://zapatopi.net/bsa/

https://zapatopi.net/treeoctopus/

http://burmesemountaindog.info/

Let's not forget fake news...

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We all get the annoying scam emails, bogus notifications, phishing texts, and social media ads. Here are some sites you can use to look up the validity of the news you see. Your best option is to check more than one.

www.snopes.com - urban legends and news

https://www.truthorfiction.com/ news

https://www.politifact.com/ - mostly political

https://www.factcheck.org/ - mostly political

Happy Searching!