Stage 2 - INVESTIGATING AND GATHERING - Selecting Information

Evaluating Websites Gr. 7/8

No one has judged the quality or accuracy of the information found on the Internet before you come across it, so you must evaluate the information you find. Some sites are created by experts; for example, the NASA website is created by aeronautical scientists. The vast majority of websites are designed and authored by non-experts.

What is the URL or Web address of the website you are evaluating?

http://________________________________________

What is the title of the website?___________________________________________

Anyone who knows HTML code and has access to a server can create a website. It is important to find out who the author is and what are the author’s qualifications or expertise, in order to determine the credibility and reliability of the information.

Who is the author of the website?

___ I couldn't tell.
___ The author is: ____________________________________________

What clues about the author did the URL (web address) provide? Check all that apply:

___ company (.com)  ___ non-profit organization (.org)
___ academic/educational institution (.edu)  ___ country-sponsored site (e.g., .uk)
___ Canadian Government agency (.gc)  ___ personal webpage (e.g. www.jamieoliver.com)
___ Internet company (.net)  ___ Other? Please explain:

What are the qualifications of the author or group that created this site?

___ I couldn’t find this information.
___ The author’s qualifications are: ____________________________________________
Evaluating Websites Gr. 7/8

Determine the purpose of the website. Some sites provide links to information (e.g., About Our Organization or a Mission Statement) detailing the purpose in creating the website, the purpose of others might not be obvious at first. Explore a website to determine if the information is mostly subjective (biased or opinionated), objective (factual) or mixed.

What is the purpose of the webpage or site? Check all that apply:

___ a webpage for ideas, opinions, or points of view
___ a company or organization
___ an educational institution
___ for entertainment
___ an advertisement to sell product or service
___ other? Please explain ____________________________________________________________

Does the website provide any contact information or means of communicating with the author/webmaster of the website?

___ No
___ Yes

When was the website last revised, modified, or updated?

___ I couldn’t tell
___ It was updated: ________________________________________________

In your opinion, how does the website appear overall? Check all that apply:

___ Well-designed and organized       ___ Poorly designed and organized
___ Easy to read and navigate        ___ Difficult to read and navigate
___ HELP tool is available           ___ HELP tool not available
___ A search feature/site map is given   ___ A search feature/site map is not given
___ Current and up-to-date information ___ Outdated information