Library Research

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Class Expectations

✓ Listen respectfully
✓ Questions are welcome
✓ Participate in activities in your groups
Today we will learn about...

Evaluating sources
Research is an Iterative Process

Define and explore the topic

Find sources

Analyze the information

Create research question

Background research

doing something again and again, usually to improve it

(Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.)
Activity: Evaluation Criteria

What do you look for in a Google source?

Use the Whiteboard in Blackboard to share your answers
## Evaluating Information Using STAR*

| Source          | • Who is the author?  
|                 | • What are their qualifications?  
|                 | • Is there bias/opinion?  |
| Timeliness      | • When was it published?  
|                 | • Does this matter to your assignment?  |
| Accuracy        | • Are there errors?  
|                 | • Can you verify their references?  |
| Relevance       | • Does the information meet your assignment’s requirements? Does it answer the question?  |
Evaluating Information Using STAR*

**Source**
- Who is the author? Are they reputable?
- What are their qualifications?
- Do they provide unbiased and factual information?

**Read laterally.**

*Reading laterally* means opening up new search tabs to search the person or organization to confirm legitimacy.
Evaluating Information Using STAR*

Timeliness

- When was it published?
- How old are their sources?

Is the information up to date?

It is important to use up to date information, meaning that it was recently published and that they used current information for sources.

Not all websites have this information clearly stated, so be cautious about relying too heavily on online resources.
Evaluating Information Using STAR*

**Accuracy**
- Are there errors?
- Can you verify their references?

**Consider the Source**
Find the original information and evaluate it for yourself.

*What conclusions do you come to on your own?*

**Check Previous Work**
Look to see what other credible sources say about the topic so you see the whole picture.
Evaluating Information Using STAR*

Relevance

• Does the information meet your assignment’s requirements? Does it answer the question?

Circle Back if necessary

Any one of the previous moves could reveal that your source is questionable, low quality, untrustworthy, or an advertisement. Stop immediately, circle back, and try a new search with stronger keywords and search terms using reliable and trustworthy sources.

Use what you have found to ‘Trade Up’ which means using what you have to find a higher quality source.
Evaluating Information Using STAR*

• How does it make you feel?

Check your emotions

A lot of online information is meant to provoke and inflame our emotions. Emotions can impair our ability to think critically, so check in with yourself to see how you are feeling. Angry? Disgusted? Irritated? Pause and reflect.

Relieved that you were able to find anything about your topic? Check in with a librarian for assistance in finding a good source.
Tips for Verifying Online Information

- Look for the "About" or "Contact" information on the website.
- Use Wikipedia to check the site and confirm the URL – make sure it’s not a scam.

Tips for Verifying Online Information con’t

☐ Copy keywords or text and run a Google search. Select the News tab to read and scan results. What else do you see about this topic?

Not Driving During COVID-19 Lockdowns Didn’t Do Much To Help Slow Climate Change

G Gizmodo Australia 14 hours ago

The saying 'a little goes a long way' doesn't really apply to climate change, so our piddly break from driving hasn't really done much to move the needle. A new study found

☐ Learn more about fake news and misinformation

http://libguides.norquest.ca/fakenews

https://medium.com/trust-media-and-democracy/for-online-media-literacy-that-works-speed-and-ease-matters-896db83b5b4c
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How to Evaluate Information

Credible information uses ...
- sources and data that are:
  - high quality
  - up to date

Google Better

Click the buttons to see what the tip is about and find out more.
- Keep it Simple
- Use Quotations
- Search by Date
- Tip 4
- Tip 5
- Tip 6

Reading Academic Articles

RECAP
1. Abstract
2. Introduction
3. Headings/Sections
4. Conclusion
5. Conflict of Interest
6. Article
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