Online Information Literacy and ELM

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What is ELM?

- The *Electronic Library for Minnesota* contains 48 online resources specifically for Minnesota residents.
- These resources come from five different vendors:
  - EBSCO
  - Gale / Cengage
  - ProQuest
  - OCLC
  - Britannica

*ELM is brought to you by your local library or school media center, MINITEX, and State Library Services, the MN state library agency with state appropriations to the Minnesota Office of Higher Education and the Minnesota Department of Education, and federal LSTA funds under the support of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.*
What we can do for you

• Minitex Instruction for media specialists, teachers, and K-12 students:
  • Call us at 1-800-462-5348 or E-mail mtxref@umn.edu
  • Request On-site or Webinar Instruction
    • [https://www.minitex.umn.edu/Reference/Request.aspx](https://www.minitex.umn.edu/Reference/Request.aspx)
  • Upcoming Webinars
    • [http://minitex.umn.edu/Training/](http://minitex.umn.edu/Training/)
  • Self-Paced

• ELM Resources for teachers:
  [https://www.elm4you.org/teachers](https://www.elm4you.org/teachers)
Take Aways

• Create a good research topic

• Learn some search strategy tools to use with students
  o Identify key concepts from topic questions
  o Combining key concepts
  o Searching for information

• Where to go to find information
The beginner researcher

- K-12 students are new to this “research” thing
- Research is one part of Information Literacy process
- Students have difficulty identifying key concepts to use as search terms from their topics
- Students see Google as all-knowing and truthful
How to search for information

• What is it I’m looking for?
• Identify what information you need to look for from your topic question.
• Create search terms that will bring back the best results.
Where do I get started?

Get an understanding of a topic by answering the following questions

• **Who?**: Find a biographical sketch or topic overview
• **What?**: Consider the issues or controversies surrounding the person, event, program, legislation, etc.
• **When?**: Time frame of the person, event, program, legislation, etc.
• **Where?**: Location of the person, event, program, legislation, etc.
• **Why?**: Impact of the person, event, program, legislation, etc. then and now (connection to present day)
Identifying Key Concepts

Important Words

• What did Europeans demand after the Crusades?
  Europeans and Crusades

• During the Renaissance, which two classical civilizations did the Italians look to for their inspiration?
  Renaissance and Italians

Or: Italian Renaissance
Using Quotes

- Quotes are used to combine multiple words into one concept
Combing Key Concepts

Important Words

Quotes are used to combine multiple words into one concept

• What were the events that led up to the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794?

Don’t: whiskey and rebellion

Do: “whiskey rebellion”
• What effects did the Mayo Clinic have on the health care industry?

Without quotes it is like searching for:

Mayo and clinic and health and care and industry

“Mayo clinic” and “health care industry”
Access to resources

• School library’s resources
• ELM, elm4you.org
• Local sources – public library
• Credible internet resources – everything from Google is great
It’s ok to use Google… sometimes

• If you use a website make sure you CITE where you got your information.
  o Include the link/url of the website

• Ask yourself:
  o How reliable is the information from this website? Does the author provide references (citations) for where they got the information, data, and quotes?
  o Who is the author or creator? Are they reputable?
  o How recent is the information?
  o Is the information on the website fact or opinion?
  o Are there any advertisements on the website?
CRAP Test

• Currency
  o How recent is the information?
  o How recently has the website been updated
  o Is it current enough for your topic?

• Reliability
  o What kind of information is included in the resource?
  o Is content of the resource primarily opinion? Is it balanced?
  o Does the creator provide references or sources for data or quotations?

• Authority
  o Who is the creator or author?
  o What are the credentials?
  o Who is the published or sponsor?
  o Are they reputable?
  o What is the publisher’s interest (if any) in this information?
  o Are there advertisements on the website?

• Purpose/Point of View
  o Is this fact or opinion?
  o Is it biased?
  o Is the creator/author trying to sell you something?

From: http://loex2008collaborate.pbworks.com/w/page/18686701/The%20CRAP%20Test
Identify key concepts from an assignment

Exercise
Compare search results in library databases and Google

Experiment
Test Your Search Statement

- In **Student Research Center** search for:
  - wikipedia and source and information
- How many results did you get?
  - 62
- What types of information are available?
  - Magazine/journal articles
- Look at one article. Who wrote the article?
  - True -- or Not? by Debbie Abilock
- When was the article written?
  - March, 2012
- Where was it published?
  - Educational Leadership
- Is this fact or opinion?
  - Fact – the author cites numerous sources for her information
Test Your Search Statement

• In **Google** search for:
  - wikipedia and source and information

• How many results did you get?
  - 414,000

• What types of information are available?
  - Wikipedia, blogs, articles…
  - Top 20 results wikipedia sites are listed 12 out 20 times, 1st page of results – 1st 8 listings

• Look at one article. Who wrote the article?
  - Wikipedia: Information Source and Knowledge Community, by John Jones

• When was the article written?
  - February, 2011

• Where was it published?
  - Self-published via Digital Media and Learning blog

• Is this fact or opinion?
  - Fact (indirectly) – this is a review of another person’s article
Where did the information come from?

Citing Sources

When to Cite

- Whenever you read something that you use in a report

Why to Cite

- To credit the person who wrote the thing you’re using in your report

How to Cite

- Provide at least the title of the source and the author’s name
Questions?

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Thank You!