

Finding Reliable Information on the Web -- HLTH 250

Basic Structure of URL:

<http://www.bcc.ctc.edu/lmc/research/handouts/boolean.pdf>

Transfer type/Server/Domain/Directory/Subdirectory/File's name. File type.

- The domain can tell you a lot. Websites with .gov and .edu typically very reliable.
- A tilde (~) in the URL usually denotes that it is a personal website, and may not necessarily be the best source of information.

Searching the Web

Librarians' Index to the Internet: <http://lii.org>

Librarians' Index to the Internet provides links to the websites evaluated by librarians.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov/>

In-depth statistical information on diseases and, especially used for tracking transmissible or communicable diseases.

Family Doctor.org: <http://familydoctor.org/>

Hosted by the American Academy of Family Physicians, this website lets you search for information on specific conditions or read articles on healthy living.

Healthfinder: <http://www.healthfinder.gov/>

Extensive linking to evaluated sites, including those established by individual hospitals, provided by the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services.

HealthWeb: <http://www.healthweb.org/>

HealthWeb is provides "organized access to evaluated non-commercial, health-related, Internet-accessible resources."

Medline Plus: <http://medlineplus.gov/>

Links to evaluated sites, provided by the National Library of Medicine.

Overlake Medical Library Consumer Health Information:

<http://www.overlakehospital.org/healthwellness/library/default.aspx>

A collection of over 100 Web sites related to consumer health, many with brief annotations. Browsable by major category.

Science behind the News: <http://press2.nci.nih.gov/sciencebehind/>

This site helps consumers understand complex health concepts that are often covered in the media. This site, compiled by the National Cancer Institute, offers comprehensive articles written in simple, direct language. Several articles are also available in Spanish.

Word on Health: <http://www.nih.gov/news/WordonHealth/index.htm>

Consumer health information from the National Institutes of Health.

Citing Sources:

Pick up **MLA Style** handouts at the Library reference desk or download off of the web:

<http://www.bcc.ctc.edu/lmc/handouts/mla2003.pdf> and

http://www.bcc.ctc.edu/lmc/handouts/mla2003_electronic.pdf

Evaluation Checklist for a Web Page

Hoax and parody present major challenge for evaluating information on the Web. Use this checklist to test your critical evaluation ability in selecting the proper information from the Internet. Try to answer as many questions as you can for each web site before you include them in your paper. Make sure to include the address of the Web site as well as the date you accessed. Keep in mind that URLs are can be case sensitive.

URL: http://-----

Date Accessed: -----

CRITERIA	COMMENTS
<p>Authority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is the author? What are the author's credentials? • Who is sponsoring the page? Is it .com, .edu, .gov, ... • Does the URL have a tilde (~)? • Is there a link to the home page? Can you find the Web master's email? 	
<p>Currency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When was the page written? • When was the page last updated? 	
<p>Accuracy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the information free from error such as spelling or grammar? • Are there sufficient references to the sources of factual information? And are these sources accurately cited? • Are there links to other sites? If so, do they work? 	
<p>Objectivity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the author objective? Does he/she cover all sides of issue? • Does the author try to influence the reader? If yes, how? 	
<p>Coverage/ Purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the page provide information to support your argument? • What is the depth of information and is it appropriate for your assignment? • Who are the targeted audience? • Is the coverage suitable for the intended audience? • Are the links relevant and appropriate? 	
<p>Overall Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on your answers to the questions above, how would you rate this page? • Is this a valuable source for your topic? • Please explain why or why not! 	