

WORDS...
more than just
letters.

Evaluating and Citing
Electronic Resources

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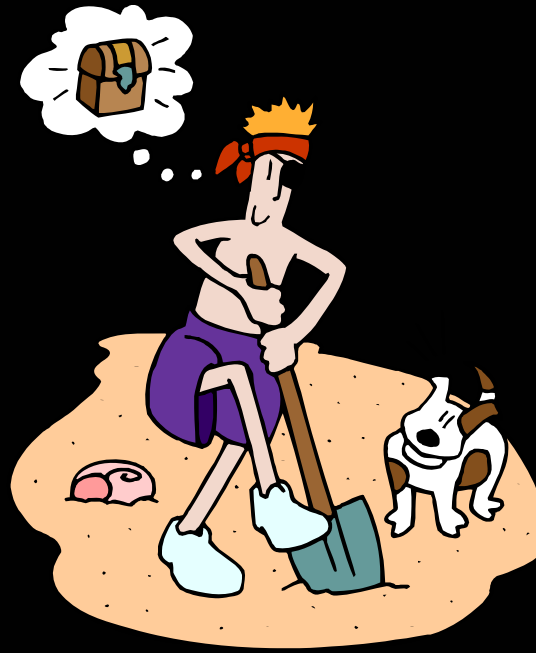
You may have heard that 'knowledge is power,' or that information, the raw material of knowledge, is power.

But the truth is that only some information is power:

reliable information" (Harris, R.).

ON-Line Sources

Digging through all the dirt



Preview the site— this can save you valuable time!

- Take the time to read the website info on your search page.
 - .edu indicates that the site is sponsored by an educational institution, usually a university.
 - .gov indicates that it is a government sponsored site. This includes federal, state and local entities.
 - .com and .net sites can be anyone.
 - Look for buzz words that indicate they are selling something.

Key factors to consider

- Authority
- Treatment/Scope
- Navigation
- Currency
- Miscellaneous

Authority

- It is very important to know who is supplying the information you are reading.
- Ask these questions:
 - Is this a reputable source such as an encyclopedia
 - Is it some ones class project or thesis paper
 - Does the author identify themselves and give their qualifications?

Where to find the information: Author

- Home or about us
- Sometimes you have to go through layers of web pages to find this information. Many times on web sites there is no clearly defined author. If that is the case, begin your citation with the document title.

Treatment/Scope

- Is the focus of the web site easily identified and what you are looking for?
- Does the website give you an unbiased and fair discussion of the topic (does it present more than one viewpoint)?
- Or is it speculation based on the authors personal opinion?

Navigation and Currency

- Web sites should be easy on the eyes and simple to use.
- The site should be regularly updated and maintained so the you can always find it, and the information is up-to-date.

Date

- Look for the words updated or appended. If there is more than one year listed, use the most recent one given.
- Frequently the only date given is the year. If that is the case, you can only use the year! Write it out 2003.

Date

- The date accessed is very important to include because information changes daily.
 - This is the day that you looked at the website and retrieved information.

Things to avoid

Personal web sites
and school projects that
have no authority

Sites that haven't been
updated or maintained

Websites that have
misspelled words

Web sites that are
slanted to one view
point

Under all the dirt,
is the treasure within.



How to cite electronic resources

Authors name (last, first), document title, (underlined or italics), copyright date, (mm/dd/yyyy), date accessed (mm/dd/yyyy), <URL> address.

- Be consistent.
- The first line is to the margin and each following line is indented five spaces.

<http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/online/citex.html>

- For more detailed instructions on electronic citations, check out this site.
 - Remember to use the MLA format.

Good Luck!
