WORKSHOPS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS SERIES

Evaluating Online Information

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Digital & Information Literacy
Workshops in the Series

**RESEARCHING YOUR ASSIGNMENT**
Wk 1  24 Feb  Mon  10:30am - 12:00pm  JO31.106
Wk 3  10 Mar  Tues  12:30pm - 2:00pm  JO31.106
Wk 5  23 Mar  Mon  4:30pm - 6:00pm  JO31.106

**EVALUATING ONLINE INFORMATION**
Wk 1  26 Mar  Wed  12:30pm - 2:00pm  JO31.106
Wk 3  12 Mar  Thurs  12:30pm - 2:00pm  JO31.106
Wk 5  25 Mar  Mon  4:30pm - 6:00pm  JO31.106

**REFERENCING USING APA**
Wk 3  13 Mar  Fri  10:30pm - 12:00pm  JO31.106
Wk 5  26 Mar  Thurs  12:30pm - 2:00pm  JO31.106
Wk 7  8 Apr  Wed  4:30pm - 6:00pm  JO31.106

**ACADEMIC SKILLS WORKSHOPS**
- academic writing and report writing
- how to research and construct assignments
- how to reference
- using EndNote
EVALUATING ONLINE INFORMATION

In this workshop you will be able to:
• Understand what a credible source of information is
• Use the CRAAP test to evaluate sources of information
• Be able to identify what type of source something is
• Understand what fake news is and how to identify it
CREDIBLE SOURCES

The definition of a credible source can change depending on the subject, but generally, for academic writing, a credible source is one that is:

- unbiased
- backed up with evidence.

When writing a research paper, always use and reference credible sources.
## What are Credible Sources?

Let's talk about what are considered credible sources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIVERSITY LIBRARY</th>
<th>WHAT ABOUT SOCIAL MEDIA?</th>
<th>WHAT ABOUT WIKIPEDIA?</th>
<th>WHAT ABOUT INTERVIEWS?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Books, eBooks, scholarly journal articles, and conference papers are generally considered credible.</td>
<td>Some blogs are reliable and credible sources. Always verify the source before using it in your assignment.</td>
<td>Anyone can edit pages in Wikipedia even if they are not experts. Treat Wikipedia articles as suspicious until you can find out more information.</td>
<td>If you interview an expert in the field of research, make sure you do research into their background to help you decide if they are credible or not.</td>
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Types of Sources

Scholarly

These are sources that have been created as a result of a rigorous research process and then reviewed by other scholars before they are published.

What it's useful for...

- University assignments
- Academic or other kinds of research

Examples

- Peer-reviewed journal articles
- Scholarly books
- Academic conference papers
- Published research data sets
- Academic book reviews
Peer Review

WHAT IS IT?

It is a process where researchers evaluate the quality of other researchers' work. This means that the research work is accurate and clear.

WHY USE IT IN YOUR ASSIGNMENT?

Your teachers expect you to use true, reliable, and authoritative information in your university-level assignments. Peer review articles are the gold standard of information in higher education.
TYPES OF SOURCES

Non-scholarly
These are sources written or created for an audience outside the academic community such as the general public.

What it's useful for...
- General knowledge
- Everyday purposes
- As data to analyse

Examples
- News
- General websites
- Blogs
- Social Media posts
- Fiction books
- Popular non-fiction books
- Government documents and publications
The CRAAP Test is a list of questions to help you evaluate the information you find.

Different criteria will be more or less important depending on your situation or need.

- Currency
- Relevance
- Authority
- Accuracy
- Purpose
CURRENCY
The timeliness of the information

Publication dates
When was the information published or posted?

Revision or update
Has the information been revised or updated?

Current information
Does your topic require current information, or will older sources work as well?

Links
Are the links working?
**RELEVANCE**

The importance of the information for your needs

- **Audience**
  Who is the audience for?

- **Level**
  Is the information at an appropriate level?

- **Variety**
  Have you looked at a variety of sources before deciding this is the one you will use?

- **Referencing**
  Would you be comfortable referencing this in your assignment?
AUTHORITY
The source of the information

- **Who**
  Who is the author / publisher / source / sponsor?

- **Credentials**
  What are the author's credentials or organisational affiliations?

- **Qualifications**
  Is the author qualified to write on the topic?

- **Contact information**
  Is there contact information, such as publisher or email address?

- **URL**
  Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source?
  (examples: .com .edu .gov .org .net)
ACCURACY
The reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the content

- **Where**
  Where does the information come from?

- **Evidence**
  Is the information supported by evidence?

- **Peer review**
  Has the information been reviewed or refereed?

- **Verification**
  Can you verify any of the information in another source?

- **Unbiased**
  Does the language or tone seem unbiased and free of emotion?
PURPOSE
The reason the information exists

What
What is the purpose of the information?
Is it to inform, teach, sell, entertain or persuade?

Clear intentions
Do the authors / sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear?

Information type
Is the information fact, opinion or propaganda?

Objective
Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?

Biases
Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional or personal bias?
BOOKS

• Textbooks
• Edited books
• Book chapters in an edited book

Book Structure

• Front matter
  ◦ Title page
  ◦ Foreword
  ◦ Table of Contents

• Chapters
  ◦ Headings & head numbering
  ◦ Boxes

• Reference & list

• Back Matter
  ◦ Appendix
JOURNAL ARTICLES

• Articles in a Journal
• Articles in a Peer Reviewed Journal

Article Structure

• Title
• Abstract
• Introduction
• Materials and Methods
• Results
• Discussion
• Conclusions
• Reference List

Not all journals use these sections in this order but it will be similar.
REPORTS

- Government
- Organisation / Company
- Technical

Report Structure

- Title page
- Table of Contents
- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Body
- Conclusion
- Recommendations
- Reference List

Not all reports use these sections in this order but it will be similar.
Fake news

What is it?

**Disinformation**
is the deliberate, often planned, attempts to confuse or manipulate people through delivering dishonest information to them.

**Misinformation**
is misleading information created or distributed without manipulative or malicious intent.

**Fake news**
are therefore stories that are specially designed to mislead or deliberately misinform people.
TIPS AND TOOLS

How can you tell the difference?

► FIND OUT ABOUT THE SOURCE
Look at the website where the story comes from to see if the story is well-presented, if the images are clear, and if the text is written well and without any spelling errors or exaggerated language.

► LOOK AT THE AUTHOR
To check if they are real, reliable and “trustworthy”, look for other pieces they have written and what outlets they have written for. If they haven’t written anything else, or if they write for websites that look unreliable, think twice about believing what they say.

► CHECK FOR REFERENCES AND LINKS
Check that the article contains references and links to other news stories, articles and authors. Click on the links and check if they seem reliable and trustworthy.

► GOOGLE REVERSE IMAGE SEARCH
This tool allows you to search Google by images, rather than words.

► IS THE STORY BEING SHARED?
See if the story you are reading about is being shared on any other mainstream news outlets, such as BBC News or Sky News. If it is, then you can feel more sure that the story is not fake, because these organisations take special care to check their sources and very rarely publish a story without having a second source to back it up.
THANK YOU

Please fill in our feedback form!

Enquiry Hours
Joondalup and Mount Lawley
8:00am-5:00pm, Monday to Friday
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