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Exploring Information Literacy: Authenticity in Adaptable Resources



Electronic resources are
valuable because...



Electronic resources are
troublesome because...

The Google Generation

- “I always start with Google, even if I know there is a book that might be better.”
- “If it’s not in Google, it must not exist.”
- “There were just so many hits to my query, I just looked at the first page.”

Why address these issues?

- Nature of research and the research process is ever-changing
- We need to be able to speak the lingo of our patrons and students
- Preparation for the future of resources



Evaluation Process

- Who is the author? Can you contact them?
- Is there a sponsoring organization or institution?
- Is the information current?
- Is the purpose of the site clear?
- Do you need special software or membership to use the resource?
- Do all links to other sites work?



What resources are we
talking about?

Traditional Websites

- Purpose and audience
- Suggested by librarians versus open web
- Viable resources at first glance (.edu, .gov, .org)

Blogs

- Purpose and audience
- Background of the author
- Cited sources in entries
- How many people link to a particular blog
- Comments left by readership
- Consistency of entries

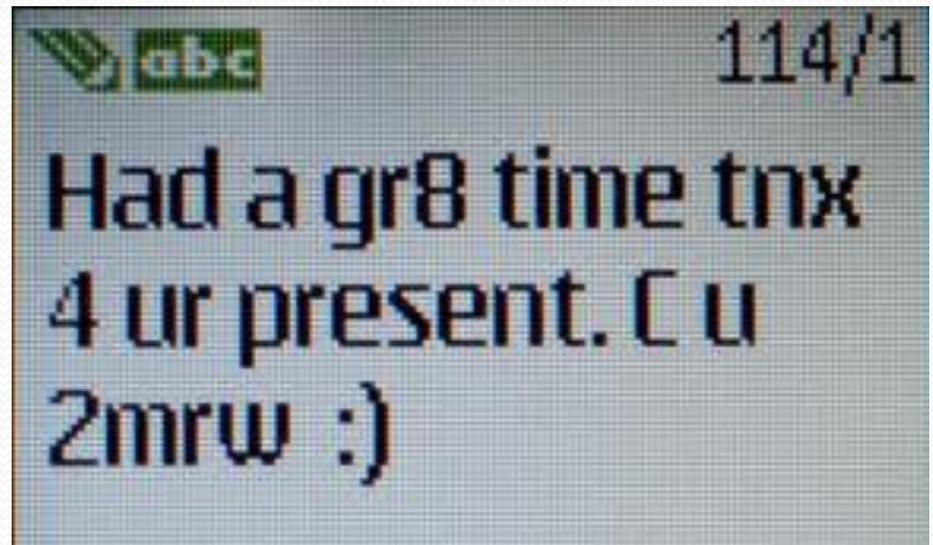




- Sponsorship
- Identity of contributors (full name or username)
- Sources cited
- Level of monitoring
- Availability of “history”

Emails and Text Messages

- Author
- Translation if necessary





Photos

- Do all objects in the photo seem to be in correct proportion?
- Check for context clues.



Social Networking

- Twitter, Facebook, Myspace, etc.
- Authorship
- Followers and friends
- Libraries on these networks

twitter



Classroom Approach

- What is information and where does it come from?
- Value of searching for a primary source
- Evaluation of resource and how it is packaged
- Authorship and ownership
- Value that can be found in print resources that is not online

Reference Desk

- Instruct staffers in new databases and websites that music patrons may find useful to launch their research
- Suggest specialized resources before Google, Dogpile, or other search engines
- Give quick suggestions on evaluating resources

Thank you!

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