WEB EVALUATION TRAINING

Table of contents

- Background
- Types of web resource
- WWW. Analysis
- What’s in a Web Address?
- Other Things to Consider

**Background**

Web based information is becoming more and more valuable when researching. Therefore it is important to consider which resources you are choosing to use and trust.

This guide focuses on some of the different types of web resources which are available, how reliable these sources may be and the different ways they can be used.

By the end you will be able to recognise:

- That not all web sources are equally reliable
- The meaning of different website endings
- The different types of web based resources (journals, newspapers, blogs, open platform learning) and their appropriate usage
- That information should be current, and updated regularly.
Some Types of Web Resource

**Journals**
- Online versions of journals we hold in hard copies, journals which are only available online, and online only content from hard copy journals.

**Books**
- We provide access to Oxford University Press books online, Kindle books require separate referencing due to page numbers, and books may be scanned and uploaded to the web.

**Blogs**
- Many researchers have blogs for their research interests, these can provide insight into current work ongoing in specific fields. Blogs can also be a useful tool for gauging public opinion and service user experience.

**Newspaper or magazine articles**
- Can demonstrate what the public is reading, and provide information about research studies which you can then follow up with further literature searching.

**Government resources**
- Official Government documents published via their websites, research updates, policies, news.

**Charitable organisations**
- Often provide updates on their research, as well as news updates from their area of interest.

**University websites**
- Unpublished thesis, research updates and other useful information. Be aware that this may not be peer reviewed.

**Pages with editable content**
- Such as Wikipedia. Be very wary of using these, as there is no guarantee that they will be correct, especially if editing can be done from anywhere in the world.

**Search engines**
- Such as Google Scholar (see our other training for further information), can help develop language usage for searching using databases.

**Social Media**
- Twitter, Facebook, Linked In, and Youtube can all be useful areas for finding news.

WWW. Analysis

**Who** has written the source?
- Is the author qualified to be writing on the topic?

**Why** have they written the source?
- What is their interest in the topic? Are they biased and trying to prove a point?

**Where** have they written it?
- Is the source a Government document, an academic article or on a personal blog?
What’s in the Web Address

gov.uk
- UK Government website

gov.im
- Local Manx Government source

ac.uk
- Usually associated with a University webpage

org.uk
- Any official organisation, including businesses and charities.

Other Things to Consider

- Is the web page recent? Does it indicate when it was published, or last updated and by whom (if applicable)?
- How is the information presented? Are there official logos? Is the information laid out clearly?
- Are there any quality indicators such as the NHS Evidence accreditation mark to demonstrate the reliability of the information?

We hope you found this guide useful. Please take a moment to complete this short survey to enable us to gather feedback:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/B2MN556

Thank you – Keyll Darree Library team

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