

# Researching Online

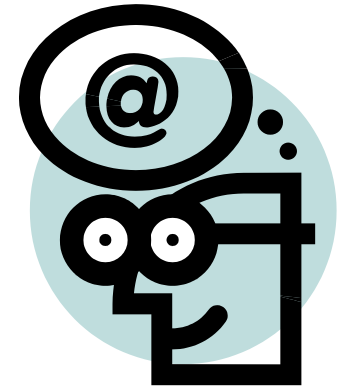
Thinking about what you see



Revised March 2015

# Books vs Internet

- ▶ Books, Magazines, Encyclopedias careful about what they publish (both online and in hard copy)
  - Difficult process
  - Fact checking
- ▶ On the Internet anyone can publish anything, anytime.
  - Sometimes can't trust the information



# So what do we do?

- ▶ Like going to the grocery store
  - Separate the junk food from the healthy food
- ▶ Need to be good thinkers
  - Find trusted author or organization
  - Ask yourself questions
  - Don't just accept what you see
  - Check your facts



# Ask yourself:

Is the content good?

- Is it useful, covering all or part of what I need?
- Do I understand the information?
- Is spelling and grammar correct?
- Is it accurate? Can I verify it elsewhere?

- <http://www.google.com/technol>



# Some are true, but have bias

- ▶ Expresses only one opinion
- ▶ Wants to convince you of their beliefs

What is the point of view?

- <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/>
- <http://www.ucla-pro-test.org/about.html>
- <http://www.peta.org/issues/animals-used-for-food/eating-health/alternatives-testing-without-torture/>

**BIASED!**

# Advertisements

- ▶ Want to sell you something
- ▶ Sometimes hard to tell which is the ad and what are the facts

Nickleodeon

<http://www.nick.com/>



# Let's look at these sites



The Tree Octopus

<http://zapatopi.net/treeoctopus/>

The Jackalope

<http://www.sudftw.com/jackcon.htm>

Burmese Mountain Dogs


<http://descy.50megs.com/akcj3/bmd.html>

# An Author's Purpose:

- ▶ **Persuade**
  - ▶ **Inform**
  - ▶ **Entertain**
  - ▶ **Sell**
- 
- ▶ The next time you look at a website, think of the author's purpose and think of **P. I. E. S.** This will help you to evaluate the information and make a better decision about its trustworthiness and validity.



# Questioning ABC's

- ▶ **Authority** – Who is the author or publisher? Are they an authority or expert on the subject?
  - ▶ **Accuracy** – Is the information accurate, truthful?
  - ▶ **Bias** – What is the website's purpose? Are they expressing an opinion? Are both sides of the debate represented?
  - ▶ **Currency** – Is the information current, up to date? When was the site last updated?
- 

# So....are these Fact or Fiction?

Dog Island

<http://www.thedogisland.com/>

Mankato, MN

<http://descy.50megs.com/mankato/mankato.html>

<http://whitehouse.gov1.info/easter-egg-roll/>



# To be a good editor...Ask yourself

- ▶ Who is the Author?
  - Is author's name on site?
  - Have you heard of organization?
  - Is it Personal page?
  - What is Domain?
    - Government sites gov, .mil, .us
    - Educational sites .edu
    - Nonprofit site .org
    - Commercial site .com

# Cyberbullying

- ▶ <http://www.cyberbullying.info/>
- ▶ <http://cybersmartcurriculum.org/>

# What have you learned?

