**Category:** Web site credibility

**Introduction:** Web sites can be created by basically anyone. Therefore, it is important to know how to determine if a web site is reliable and can be trusted versus those considered unreliable. There are no guidelines limiting or restricting what an individual person can include on their own web site. However, web sites created by businesses, schools, and organizations are usually trustworthy and contain truthful information. Credible educational web sites usually include one of the following domain names in the Internet address (URL): .edu, k12, .org, or .gov

**Common Core Standards for 7th Grade Language Arts:**
W.7.8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation. 
RI.7.6. Determine an author’s point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author distinguishes his or her position from that of others.

**Research to Build and Present Knowledge:**
8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.

**AASL Standards for 21st Century 7th Grade Learner:**
1.1.4 Find, evaluate, and select appropriate sources to answer questions.
2.4.1 Determine how to act on information (accept, reject, modify).
3.1.4 Use technology and other information tools to organize and display knowledge and understanding in ways that others can view, use, and assess
4.3.2 Recognize that resources are created for a variety of purposes.

**Common Core Standards for 8th Grade Language Arts:**
W.8.1. Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence. Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.
W.8.8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation. 
RI.8.8. Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient to support the claims.

**Research to Build and Present Knowledge:**
8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.

**AASL Standards for 21st Century 8th Grade Learner:**
1.1.5 Evaluate information found in selected sources on the basis of accuracy, validity, and appropriateness for needs, importance, and social and cultural context.
2.4.1 Determine how to act on information (accept, reject, modify).
3.1.4 Use technology and other information tools to organize and display knowledge and understanding in ways that others can view, use, and assess
WEB RESOURCES

GRADE LEVELS: 7th and 8th

4.3.2 Recognize that resources are created for a variety of purposes

**Web Sites:** Web Site Credibility
Developmentally Appropriate for Grades 7 & 8

[http://www.bcps.org/offices/lis/models/biog/credib.html](http://www.bcps.org/offices/lis/models/biog/credib.html)
This well-designed site provides good learning activities that will teach students how to evaluate the reliability of a web site. The web site includes an example of a web site that is a “hoax.” Students are asked to judge the reliability of a web site is by comparing information using several web sites.

[http://www.gethelp.library.upenn.edu/guides/tutorials/webliteracy/](http://www.gethelp.library.upenn.edu/guides/tutorials/webliteracy/)
The University of Pennsylvania provides a tutorial on criteria to use when evaluating a web site: Accuracy, Credibility, Currency, Relevance, and Bias. It is useful for students starting their research process. A checklist is available for students to use as they evaluate web sites for credibility: [http://gethelp.library.upenn.edu/PORT/evaluate/worksheet.html](http://gethelp.library.upenn.edu/PORT/evaluate/worksheet.html)

Students could use the “Website Credibility Checklist” provided on this web site as a tool to help them assess web site credibility. The “Website Credibility Checklist” format is organized by small chunks of information which makes it easier for students to read, understand, and use as an assessment tool for web site credibility. The web site was created by Elaine Angelloz, M.Ed., Instructional Technology Facilitator at Nicholls State University.
Category: Boolean Operators

Introduction: The concept of Boolean searching allows users to combine words with Boolean operators such as “AND”, “NOT”, and “OR”, to increase more relevant results. For example, a Boolean search could be “airport” AND “Dallas.” This limits the search results to only those documents containing the two keywords. Another example is “duck” NOT “Daffy” to exclude documents that have “Daffy” in them. To find documents by one term or the other, an example is “college” OR “university.” Using Boolean operators can limit, widen, or define your search terms, thereby saving time and effort when looking for information on the Internet.
*The term “Boolean Logic” was developed by George Boole, a 19th century mathematician, in order to combine or exclude certain concepts when searching databases.

Common Core Standards for 7th Grade Language Arts:
W.7.8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation. Research to Build and Present Knowledge
7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

AASL Standards for 21st Century 7th Grade Learner:
1.1.1 Follow an inquiry-based process in seeking knowledge in curricular subjects and make the real world connection for using this process in own life.
2.1.4 Use technology and other information tools to analyze and organize information.
3.1.4 Use technology and other information tools to organize and display knowledge and understanding in ways that others can view, use, and assess.
4.1.4 Seek information for personal learning in a variety of formats and genres.

Common Core Standards for 8th Grade Language Arts:
W.8.8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation. Research to Build and Present Knowledge
7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

AASL Standards for 21st Century 8th Grade Learner:
1.1.8 Demonstrate mastery of technology tools for accessing information and pursuing inquiry.
2.1.4 Use technology and other information tools to analyze and organize information.
3.4.1 Assess the processes by which learning was achieved in order to revise strategies and learn more effectively in the future.
4.1.4 Seek information for personal learning in a variety of formats and genres.

Web Sites: Boolean Operators
Developmentally Appropriate for Grades 7 & 8
WEB RESOURCES
GRADE LEVELS: 7th and 8th

This web site includes a lesson that covers Boolean searching and basic Boolean operators. This lesson will teach students the basic tools, strategies, and techniques for more focused searching. Students will learn how to become more proficient at constructing searches on electronic databases by using basic Boolean operators AND, OR, NOT, and truncation.

http://lib.colostate.edu/tutorials/boolean.html
A Basic Boolean Searching Tutorial is presented on this web site. It is an excellent self-paced tutorial that covers searching effectively using AND, OR, NOT. The tutorial uses animated images of animals to explain Boolean operators. Therefore, students will be more likely to understand Boolean operators by seeing this visual representation in the tutorial. More advanced students could easily transfer to the Advanced Boolean Searching Tutorial at the end of the Basic Boolean Searching Tutorial. However, the tutorials do not include audio.

http://www.newlondon.k12.wi.us/highschool/boolean.cfm
This site includes four tools to help students better understand Boolean searching. There is a Power Point that explains Boolean searching and operators. There are also two visual tutorials on how to use Boolean operators. In addition, there is an interactive tool called the Boolean Machine that helps students visualize the effects of Boolean operators on keyword searches. The tools on the web site are easy to use and teach the importance of Boolean operators in effective search strategies.
Category: Dewey Decimal System

Introduction: The Dewey Decimal System is the traditional and still relevant starting point for research and organizational skills. Understanding the Dewey Decimal System of classification is fundamental in understanding how the library is organized; most libraries employ the Dewey Decimal System of classifying materials. Created by Melvil Dewey in 1873 this system classifies non-fiction materials into ten major classes of human knowledge. The web sites guide students to understand how and why the Dewey Decimal system was conceived, the ten major classes and their subsequent subdivisions, and how it is governed. Understanding the Dewey Decimal System will help students find the precise materials needed for any research project.

Common Core Standards for 7th Grade Language Arts:
RH.6-8.7. Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.
WHST.6-8.7. Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.

AASL Standards for 21st Century 7th Grade Learner:
1.1.1. Follow an inquiry-based process in seeking knowledge in curricular subjects and make the real world connection for using this process in own life.
2.1.2 Organize knowledge so that it is useful.
3.1.4 Use technology and other information tools to organize and display knowledge and understanding in ways that others can view, use, and assess.
4.1.4 Seek information for personal learning in a variety of formats and genres.

Common Core Standards for 8th Grade Language Arts:
RH.6-8.7. Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.
WHST.6-8.7. Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.
Research to Build and Present Knowledge
7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

AASL Standards for 21st Century 8th Grade Learner:
1.2.2 Demonstrate confidence and self-direction by making independent choices in the selection of resources and information.
2.1.2 Organize knowledge so that it is useful.
WEB RESOURCES

GRADE LEVELS: 7th and 8th

3.1.4 Use technology and other information tools to organize and display knowledge and understanding in ways that others can view, use, and assess.

4.1.4 Seek information for personal learning in a variety of formats and genres.

**Web Sites:** Dewey Decimal System

Developmentally Appropriate for Grades 7 & 8

http://www.cte.jhu.edu/techacademy/web/2000/foster/

This site sends students on an imaginary mission to explain the Dewey Decimal System used in a library to a “group of new students.” On the web site, students are asked to gather background information by reading the introduction in the first “book” on the “shelf.” The “books” will help students complete each step. Students will use the resources as they read to be informed about the Dewey Decimal System. They will learn the logical sequence in each of the ten major classes of Mr. Dewey's system as they work through the process. Students will check their acquired knowledge by playing the games on the web site. A challenge exercise is available on the web site when students feel prepared to test their understanding of the Dewey Decimal System. The web site includes instructions for a final project on the Dewey Decimal System. For the final project, students create a twelve to fifteen slide presentation on the Dewey Decimal System using MS PowerPoint. The activities keep students engaged in learning and challenged by deepening their understanding of the Dewey Decimal System.

http://www.deweybrowse.org/

This site offers a large Dewey Decimal System chart that organizes the eleven main classifications within the Dewey Decimal System. Each category is hyperlinked to a secondary chart which shows the sub-classifications within each main classification. Students may prefer this chart to others because it is easy to read. Students can move through the classifications quickly to find their subject.

http://frank.mtsu.edu/~vvesper/dewey2.htm

This web site provides comprehensive information and interactive library exercises on the Dewey Decimal System. It includes sections of information on the Dewey Decimal System including: history and current use, call numbers, arrangement, summaries. Students can complete interactive library exercises to learn about the Dewey Decimal System and how to use it. One excellent feature of the web site is the “Help for the Confused.” Students may choose this feature and learn the concept in a different way (reteaching the skill). The author of the web site uses examples that relate well to this age group such as Harry Potter books.
**WEB RESOURCES**

**GRADE LEVELS:** 7th and 8th

**Category:** Research Skills

**Introduction:** While sites like Google and Yahoo may be helpful, students cannot be sure everything they are finding is accurate. The quality of information gleaned from web sites ultimately determines the quality of the research being done. Using the right tools, students can determine credibility and consider the validity of the information. While teaching students how to use the World Wide Web as a research tool, it is also necessary to teach skills on determining web site credibility. These web sites are appropriate for use in 7th and 8th grade.

**Common Core Standards for 7th Grade Language Arts:**
W.7.8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.
W.7.9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
WHST.6-8.7. Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.

**AASL Standards for 21st Century 7th Grade Learner:**
1.1.5 Evaluate information found in selected sources on the basis of accuracy, validity, appropriateness to needs, importance, and social and cultural context.
2.1.4 Use technology and other information tools to analyze and organize information.
3.4.2 Assess the quality and effectiveness of the learning product.
4.3.2 Recognize that resources are created for a variety of purposes.

**Common Core Standards for 8th Grade Language Arts:**
W.8.8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.
RI.8.8. Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced.
WHST.6-8.7. Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.

**AASL Standards for 21st Century 8th Grade Learner:**
1.1.1 Follow an inquiry-based process in seeking knowledge in curricular subjects and make the real world connection for using this process in own life.
2.4 Determine how to act on information (accept, reject, modify).
3.1.1 Conclude an inquiry-based research process by sharing new understandings and reflecting on the learning.

4.4.6 Evaluate own ability to select resources that are engaging and appropriate for personal interests and needs.

**Web Sites:** Research Skills
Developmentally Appropriate for Grades 7 & 8

[http://www.library.nsuok.edu/tutorials/libm4611/GoogleWhenHow.html](http://www.library.nsuok.edu/tutorials/libm4611/GoogleWhenHow.html)
Google is a powerful tool, but not always reliable. This audiovisual tutorial offers information on using Google effectively. More specifically, students learn *when* and *how* to use Google in their research. The large text and the audio in the tutorial are useful for learners who are visually or hearing impaired.

[http://www.noodletools.com/debbie/literacies/information/5locate/adviceengine.html](http://www.noodletools.com/debbie/literacies/information/5locate/adviceengine.html)
A list of quality search engines is provided by this web site. Students can choose the best search for their information need. Students will find suggestions for the following research needs:

1) Defining a topic.
2) Finding quality results.
3) Conducting research in a specific discipline.
4) Finding timely information, from past to present.
5) Finding quick facts.
6) Finding opinions and perspectives.
7) Finding specific types of media, such as maps, photos, fine art, sounds, speeches, quotes and data.
8) Special search requirements, such as domain restrictions.

This web site is created by Kathy Schrock, Director of Technology at Nauset Public Schools, Orleans, MA and a former school librarian and teacher. Her site includes a long list of search engines developmentally appropriate for seventh and eighth grade students to use for research. Schrock includes a brief introduction for each search engine. Teachers and students can match the appropriate search engines to their research needs. According to Schrock, the web site is updated often to include the best search engines for teaching and learning.
Category: Research Resources on the Internet

Introduction: Where are the reliable research resources on the Internet? Reliable research resources could include databases, web sites, and journals. These resources are designed to provide opportunities for the enhancement of research and critical thinking skills. The limitless information on the internet requires that students receive adequate training on how to locate, evaluate and use reliable research resources. The web sites offered here will teach students the five criteria for evaluation of research resources on the Internet such as: Authority, Accuracy, Bias, Currency, Coverage. The web sites are well-suited for 7th and 8th grade students.

Common Core Standards for 7th Grade Language Arts:
W.7.7. Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions for further research and investigation.
W.7.9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
Research to Build and Present Knowledge:
7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.

AASL Standards for 21st Century 7th Grade Learner:
1.1.5 Evaluate information found in selected sources on the basis of accuracy, validity, appropriateness, for needs, importance, and social cultural context.
2.1.4 Use technology and other information tools to analyze and organize information.
3.4.2 Assess the quality and effectiveness of the learning product.
4.2.1 Display curiosity by pursuing interests through multiple resources.

Common Core Standards for 8th Grade Language Arts:
W.8.7. Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.
W.8.9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
Research to Build and Present Knowledge:
7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.
9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
AASL Standards for 21st Century 8th Grade Learner:
1.1.7 Make sense of information gathered from diverse sources by identifying misconceptions, main and supporting ideas, conflicting information, and point of view or bias.
2.2.1 Demonstrate flexibility in use of resources by adapting information strategies to each specific resource and by seeking additional resources when clear conclusions cannot be drawn.
3.1.1 Conclude an inquiry-based research process by sharing new understandings and reflecting on the learning.
4.3.2 Recognize that resources are created for a variety of purposes.

Web Sites: Research Resources on the Internet
Developmentally Appropriate for Grades 7 & 8

http://www.ivyjoy.com/rayne/kidssearch.html
Students can use this web site to search for information from a variety of quality databases and websites including Ask.com, Cyber Sleuth Kids, DMOZ Kids and Teens, MSN Encarta, Kids Click, and Yahoo Kids. For example, using the search term Native Americans on DMOZ Kids and Teens resulted in 1,253 articles. One article, Origins of North American Indians, discusses information for students about Native American cultures, homes, clothing and food, chiefs and heroes, and battles. There are many actual photographs and colorful illustrations. Another feature offered on the web site is a filter for searchers. Go the link AltaVista and click on: Family Filter Setup

http://www.multcolib.org/homework/
This web site includes educational databases, web sites, and journals from the link: Homework Web Sites (not Homework Databases). This is a useful site for students starting their Internet research or finding articles for a school project. There is a Native American database that includes several tribe web sites. For example, the official website of the Cherokee Nation includes history, from treaties and important dates to the Trail of Tears, dress, language and legends. Click on Culture to find this information.

http://www.sweetsearch.com/sweetsites
This site offers search results that are safe and reliable for students. Each Web Guide ranks sites according to both credibility and relevance. After reading a Web Guide, users will know a lot more about the topic at hand, as well as how to effectively find information about it online. Web Guides cover the seventh and eighth grade content areas including math, English, science, geography, and social studies. Web Guides for computer science and some foreign languages are also available. One very nice feature on the web site is “On This Day” which provides actual photographs, documents, and credible information about a significant event in history on the given day.

Digital tools for generating Works Cited entries:
http://www.citationmachine.net
http://www.easybib.com
http://www.knightcite.com
WEB RESOURCES
GRADE LEVELS: 7th and 8th

Common Core Standards – may be referred to as Common Core State Standards
http://www.corestandards.org/

AASL – American Association of School Librarians
http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/guidelinesandstandards/learningstandards/standards.cfm