Internet Resource Evaluation Exercise

Group activity – Groups of 4 (Individual if small class)

Real sites:

http://www.cicadamania.com/cicadas/category/cicada-killer-wasps/

http://www.iceman.it/en/oetzi-the-iceman

http://www.animalplanet.com/tv-shows/finding-bigfoot/about-bigfoot/bigfoot-field-researchers-organization/

https://www.oneonta.edu/faculty/farberas/arth/arth200/artist/court_artist.html

"Fake" sites:

https://politics.theonion.com/we-will-not-repeat-the-mistakes-of-the-2016-election-1832763775

http://www.umich.edu/~engtt516/index2.html

http://www.dhmo.org/

http://www.anh-usa.org/half-of-all-children-will-be-autistic-by-2025-warns-senior-research-scientist-at-mit/

Directions:

(Instructor: Print cards for each website, have each group choose a card at random. Hand out a worksheet to each group and explain the following instructions –)

As a group, read the article or review the website you are assigned from the list above. Then work through the Who/Why/When evaluation method. Fill out worksheet as you go. Be prepared to report on your evaluation consensus and details on how you found the information you used to inform your decisions.

Notes on the Who/Why/When evaluation method:

Who? --> (Authority) Who wrote the article? What are the author's credentials? Are they considered authorities or experts on the topic, and why? Why should we trust them? How do the answers to these questions impact the information in the source?

Why? --> (Purpose) Why was this information published? What's the purpose: to inform or to make a profit? What sort of characteristics can be observed that would tell us more about the purpose of the information? Is the author biased? What is the impact of the language, formatting, and/or style choices made for this source? Does the author use outside sources? How do the answers to these questions impact the information in the source?

and When? --> (Relevance) When was the information created, published, and/or updated? What is the date coverage for the source? Is it historical or current information? Is the coverage of the information appropriate for your information need? How do the answers to these questions impact the information in the source?

*Remember the goal of evaluating a source:
to make a judgement on its quality and reliability as an information source, and to determine if/how it fits in to our own research. Focus less on summarizing the content of the source (or, what it is about) and stay attuned to those characteristics and indicators that will help us determine (1) what it is, (2) if we should trust it, and (3) how to use it. Work through the Who/Why/When method with a critical eye and focus on how the answers to those evaluation questions affect the information in the source and influence the ways we can use the information.

Overall, you're trying to determine if the source is reliable, accurate, credible, and relevant to your information need.

Evaluating Internet Resources Activity Worksheet

Names:_____

Assigned Resource:_____

What kind of resource is
this?_____

(Hint: Website? Article? Blog? Etc.)

Final Consensus: *Reliable or Not Reliable?* _____

Evaluation:

WHO:
Where did you find this information?

WHY:

Where did you find this information?

WHEN:

Where did you find this information?