

Workshop Title: What makes a Good Source?

Summary: This in-class workshop consists of instruction about the varying types of information sources and how to use them as well as an interactive exercise that gives the students a chance to evaluate specific sources.

Locations: Any location is fine as long as students have laptops or some form of online access.

Term: Fall

Specific Knowledge Outcomes:

- Students will acquire the ability to discern the differences between various information source types
- Students will understand what constitutes scholarly content.

Activity: After the librarian provides an overview of different types of information sources (10 - 15 minutes), students break up into small groups. Each group is given a URL that links to a different kind of source (scholarly articles, magazine editorials, news reports, etc.). Students examine the source, and consider various questions: Who is the author? What do we know about the author? What kind of publication is it (journal, newspaper, blog, etc.)? Who is the intended audience? What year was it published? Are there citations or bibliography? Does the article have accompanying images? How would you use this source if you were writing an academic paper? (10 - 15 minutes). The class re-convenes and the various groups of students share their findings: what kind of source is it and why do they think so? Student presenters are encouraged to discuss how they reached the conclusions they did (20 -25 minutes).

Questions to consider (worksheet for students):

- Who is the author?
- What do we know about the author?
- What kind of publication is it (journal, newspaper, blog, etc.)?
- Who is the intended audience?
- What year was it published?
- Are there citations or bibliography?
- Does the article have accompanying images?
- How would you use this source if you were writing an academic paper?

List of URLs:

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2017/07/19/how-lyme-disease-might-triggering-hundreds-suicides/493934001/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/22/opinion/climate-change.html>

<http://content.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1807803,00.html>

http://www.raoulwallenberg.net/wp-content/files_mf/3107.pdf

http://0-link.galegroup.com.library.bennington.edu/apps/doc/A491947786/ITOF?u=vol_b43c&sid=ITOF&xid=fd08167d

<http://0-search.ebscohost.com.library.bennington.edu/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=363972&site=ehost-live>

<https://www.si.com/vault/2014/04/28/106457660/if-you-give-a-mouse-a-concussion>

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/nih-research-matters/predicting-recovery-time-sports-concussions>

<https://consumer.healthday.com/cancer-information-5/breast-cancer-news-94/too-much-sitting-raises-odds-for-cancer-study-658587.html>

<http://cancerpreventionresearch.aacrjournals.org/content/5/1/98.long>