Information Literacy Skills

Evaluating the Quality of Online Information

8 Ways to Detect Low-Quality Online Information

1 Purpose
Goal: Understanding the purpose of a website

Ask:
- Was this site created to inform, entertain, educate, or advertise?

2 Relevance
Goal: Aligning the website to the needs of the task

Ask:
- Can I find the information I am seeking on this site?
- Is this information critical to the reason for my search?

3 Knowledge
Goal: Aligning the website to the needs of the task

Ask:
- Is the person who created this site credible?
- What credentials do they hold to validate the information shared by them?

4 Inspect
Goal: Identifying why the information is being shared

Ask:
- Did the person who put out the information intend to persuade, share their opinions, or share facts?

5 Accuracy
Goal: Aligning the website to the needs of the task

Ask:
- Can I verify if the information presented on this site is true or not?
- What other sources of information are available to me and how can I have access to such information?

6 Voice
Goal: Determining whose voices are presented

Ask:
- Did the person who presented information on the site provide only one perspective or more perspectives to the issue at hand?

7 Connect
Goal: Linking found information with your ideas

Ask:
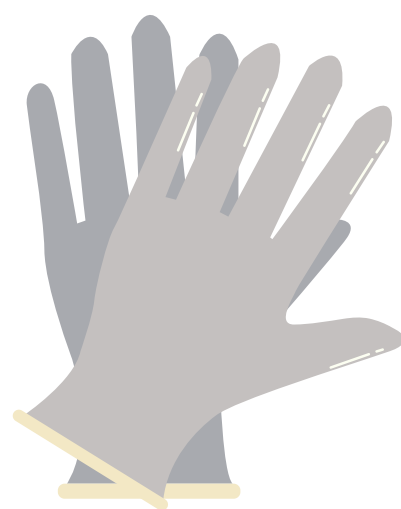- Will this information be useful in answering the questions I have?

8 Updates
Goal: Search for recent updates to the resource

Ask:
- How often is the site updated with current information? Is the information I have reliable and concurrent with the times?

References:
- Coiro, J. (2017, August 29). *Teaching adolescents how to evaluate the quality of online information.* Eutopia. https://www.edutopia.org/blog/evaluating-quality-of-online-info-julie-coiro
- Common Sense Media. (2020, June 4). *What is media literacy, and why is it important?* https://www.commonsensemedia.org/articles/what-is-media-literacy-and-why-is-it-important