Information Literacy Assignment: Web Searching and Evaluation

Assignment:

Find web pages or sites (specified in number by your instructor) related to your writing or research assignment. Consult with the instructor about the number of sites you need to find. Write a brief evaluation of each site, and cite the pages in an appropriate style (APA, MLA, or other). Print and enclose the first page of each web page you evaluated.

Consider web evaluation criteria to help you with the critical evaluation of the sites:

- Who created the web site? What are their qualifications and credentials? Does the site have a profit motive? Does a profit motive impact the content?
- What’s the purpose of your site? What types of information are available on this site? What does a user need to know to successfully navigate through/find the information within the site?
- Is the information presented from a biased point of view? What type of language does the site use (scholarly, informal, inflammatory, etc.)? How current is the information on the site?
- What are the strengths of the site? What are its weaknesses?
- Would you choose to use information from this site in your research paper? Why or why not?

Purpose:

- Enables students to develop web searching skills.
- Encourages students to develop skills for critically evaluating quality of resources on the web.
- Offers an opportunity to practice citing using a particular citing format.

To complete this assignment, it will be helpful to review the following information:

- Search web effectively
- Evaluate your sources on the Library Help with Research page
- Properly citing resources and avoiding plagiarism

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