Evaluating Online Information

Life Skills:

- Thinking & Reasoning
- Communication

Time Frame:

1 class period that runs 45 minutes

Summary:

Students will understand how to access and evaluate health information that is available

on the Internet

Main Curriculum Tie:

Library Media/Information Literacy (7-12) Extract information.

Materials:

- **Evaluating Online Health PowerPoint (ppt)**
- Web site Evaluation Form Student handout (Word)

Background For Teachers:

Web Sites

Pioneer Online Library

EBSCO has several medical related databases, including Health Source –

Consumer Edition and MEDLINE. Students can also use SIRS

Knowledge Source to find medical information.

(Note: Pioneer Online Library is only available to Utah students and educators.)

MEDLINE

Good recourse for evaluating health information.

- 20 MOST POPULAR HEALTH WEBSITES
 - Answers question " Where do we get our online health information" National Library of Medicine

This is a video presentation that looks like a PowerPoint. It runs automatical browser in a FLASH format. Great information, about 16 min long

New York Online Access to Health

Good recourse for evaluating health information.

Student Prior Knowledge:

Students should be able to conduct Internet searches.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

- Students will understand how to assess health information from Internet Web sites.
- Students will analyze common ways fraudulent health products and ideas are marketed on line.
- Students will evaluate a web site and classify it as reliable, questionable, or unreliable.

Instructional Procedures:

1. Show class the <u>Evaluating Online Health information</u> PowerPoint presentation. Note: If you do not have access to PowerPoint, use the

PDF version of the Presentation to cover the same information.

- 2. Introduce the <u>Evaluation Checklist for Health Websites handout</u>. Explain how this handout can be used to evaluate a health related web site.
- 3. Have students go online to evaluate a web site. Allow them to "Google" an

approved topic and select a website that covers with this issue. The evaluation handout asks students to evaluate the web site and rate it as

Reliable, Questionable, or Unreliable.

Possible Medical topics:

- Weight Loss
- Arthritis Relief
- Cancer Treatment
- Aging
- Pain Relief
- Swine Flu
- Diet Aides
- Acne
- Other topics approved by the instructor

Attachments

- Evaluating online health info.ppt Introductory PowerPoint
- <u>Evaluating online health info.pdf</u>
 Alternative PowerPoint Information handout
- <u>SiteReviewForm.doc</u> Site Review Form

Assessment Plan:

After students evaluate a web site process the experience as a class. Some sample

processing questions might be:

- Who would like to share your experience on a RELIABLE web page? Who visited an UNRELIABLE web page?
- What factors made it UNRELIABLE?
- Was there a web page that you could not decide as to it's reliability? Do you think it trying to appear reliable? How Might you better decide?

Do you believe you are now better able to assess the accuracy and reliability of health related online information?

Author:

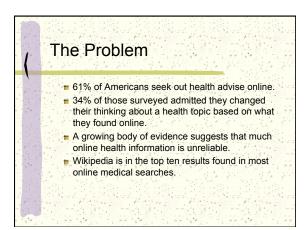
LYNN WESTBERG
Colleen Norris

Name	Period						
CRITICAL EVALUATION OF AN ONLINE HEALTH WEB SITE Authority – Accuracy – Objectivity – Currency - Coverage							
Site #2	[] Reliable [] Questionable [] Unreliable.						
Site #3	[] Reliable [] Questionable [] Unreliable.						
When you are done, circle the site that you think would be the most reliable:	Site #	:1	Site	#2	Site	#3	
EVALUATE THIS WEBSITE:	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
As you look at the questions below, put an X in the yes or no column for each.							
Does the title of the page tell you what it is about?							
Does it contain accurate and useful information?							
Look at the domain name. Can you tell if it's a company, educational institution,							
organization, government site, or personal website? Which one is it?							
Does it identify the author of the website? If so, who is it?							
Do they ask for personal information?							
Is there an e-mail link to the author or organization?							
Can you tell which organization is sponsoring the website?							
Does the site includes a current copyright/creation date OR a recent revision date?							
Is there an image map allowing you to navigate to other pages of the website and the							
home page?							
Are there links to related websites that might be helpful?							
Do you feel the organization sponsoring the website might be biased in any way?							
Is there anything on the page or website that indicates a product or service is being							
sold?							
Is the purpose of the page entertainment, news, reference, business, or personal?							
(Circle your answer.)							
Do you think the information contained on this website is true and valid?							



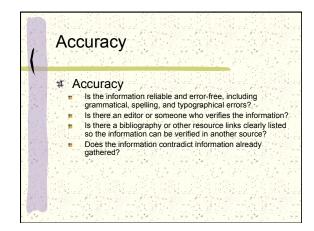
Using the internet to find health information is alike going on a treasure hunt...

You could find some real gems... or you could find yourself in some strange and dangerous places...

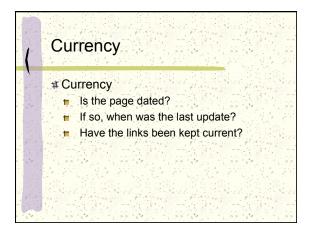


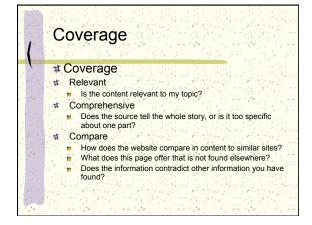
Guidelines for Evaluating Online Health Information # Authority # Accuracy # Objectivity # Currency # Coverage

Authority Is there an author or sponsoring organization? What are their qualifications? Are they well-known and reputable? Is there a link to information about the author or sponsor? Is there a way of verifying the legitimacy of the page's sponsor? That is, is there a phone number or address to contact for more information? What is the website's extension? com - a for profit company edu - an educational institution org - a non-profit organization gov - a governmental agency hitml (look for personal name, ~ or %)



Objectivity # Objectivity # Purpose | What is the purpose/objective of the website? | Public service | Educational | Sway opinion # Advertising | Is the information free of advertising? | If there is any advertising on the page, is it clearly differentiated from the informational content? # Bias | Is the point of view balanced? | Is the information based on fact? Opinion? Prejudice? | Are both sides of an issue presented?





Challenges Presented by Online Health Resources Challenges Web sites blend entertainment, information, and advertising. Some Web sites are susceptibility to alteration - Wikipedia. Does the advertising and information both come from the same person / organization. Try to document source to the fullest extent possible Attempt to verify information using other sources Technology is outpacing ability to create standards and guidelines Caveat emptor – Let the buyer beware....