

# Smart Research

Mr. Weber, 2010



# Researching Online

There are more tools besides Google and Wikipedia



# Research Strategies



1. Stay current on topics.
2. Use a search engine the smart way.
3. Evaluate websites as sources.
4. Bookmark effectively.
5. Collaborate online.
6. Cite sources.

# 1. Stay current



- Use an RSS reader.
- Monitor Twitter.

# 2. Search Smarter



- Select a good search engine:
  - Google
  - Ask Jeeves (Ask.com)
  - Bing
  - Yahoo
- Use **advanced search**

# 3. Evaluate Sites



- Identify the source
- Recognize the purpose
- Ensure it is legal
- Review the content
- Check the date

# Identify the Source



- Who is the site author?
- What is the authority or expertise of the author?
  - What else do you find when you look up the author?
  - Does the author have a political or business agenda?

# Recognize the Purpose



- Is there an organization sponsoring the site?
  - What can you find out about the sponsor?
- Who else links to the site?
  - Type "link:siteurl" into Google search to find out.

# Ensure it is Legal



- Spreading hate is illegal in Canada.
  - Advocating or promoting genocide
  - Making public statements that wilfully promote hatred against a group of people
- Don't use an illegal source for research

# Review the Content



- Can you check the information with another source?
- Is there documentation to indicate the site's information sources?
- Does the site link to reliable sites?
- Is there a place where you can contact the site author or administrator?

# Check the Date



- Does the site clearly show when it was created and/or updated?
- Does the content reflect recent updates or advances in the topic you are researching?

# Wikipedia?



- Anyone can create, edit, or add to pages. Usually Wikipedia is accurate, but not always.
- Use Wikipedia as a launch for your research.
- Always check information on Wikipedia with other sources.

# 4. Bookmark Effectively



- Use a bookmarking service that allows you to tag your bookmarks.
- Use tags that will help you find the site in the future.

# 5. Collaborate Online



- Use others' bookmarks (or popular bookmarks) to find related sites.
- Create a group that allows you to share bookmarks with members among your research team.

# 6. Cite Your Sources



- If you are sharing your work electronically, a specific link is fine.
- Otherwise, use *MLA* format to cite your source.

# Over to You

- Research the tool assigned to your group.
- Prepare and present a visually interesting, informative presentation about the tool.



# Answer these Questions

- What is the tool?
- What's it for?
- How does it work?
- How could you use it for academic research?
- How could you use it for group projects?
- What other uses does it have?

# Credits



Icons by Dryicons

Scotchburn & Toulis, *Information Literacy Works*,  
Sep. 2006.

Centre for Media Awareness, *Safe Passages*.