Admit it: If I asked you a question and you did not know the answer, your first impulse would be to go online. Right?

We are fortunate to live in the age of the "online oracle" search engines that can find answers to anything.

But how much can you trust information that is easy to get? Why is it so easy? How do I know if the information is reliable?

Evaluate with RADAR

Relevance – is the resource relevant to your topic?

Authority – is the author/creator of this source an authority on that topic?

Date – is this information current?

Appearance – does this resource look legitimate, appropriate, academic, etc?

Reason – why did the author write this? What is the author’s intention?

More information:

https://library.fvtc.edu/Evaluate
https://library.fvtc.edu/Tools
How much can you trust information that is easy to get? In depends... What do you want?

Opinion ---------> Facts & Data
Biased ----------> Objective
Outdated ---------> Current
Anonymous -----> Expert
Off-topic --------> Relevant
Temporary ------> Re-searchable

Search engines create a form of popularity contest, where we don't know how the judging is being done.

High placement in search engine results - is not indicative of credibility.

Your best defense is skepticism.

GIGO
Garbage In = Garbage Out

Databases are created by humans. They are only as accurate as the person and the information that goes into the program.

How do I know if the information is reliable?

There are many reasons that people publish information. Often the goal is to get money, power, or status.

You have to look at the source of the information and the reason that it was published.

A search engine is like the local watering hole; everyone goes there, including predators.

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