J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College

Your first stop for information and research needs!

Evaluating Information Sources Worksheet

Choose any topic to research. Provide some **search terms** or **keywords** that describe your topic and write them below.

Search Terms: _____

A. Google

1. Using the search terms you listed above, perform a search using **Google** at http://www.google.com.
2. Review your Google search results list and **select one web site to evaluate**. List the name and URL address of the web site below:

    Name of web site: _____

    URL address – http://_____

3. Use the criteria below to evaluate this web site:

    a. **What?** What does the web site cover? Is it relevant to my topic? Does the web site provide general or comprehensive information? What type of audience is the web site written for? If there is an issue, are both sides presented?

    _____

    _____

    _____

    b. **When?** Is it clear when the web site was last updated? Is the information up-to-date enough for my topic?

    _____

    _____

    _____

    c. **Who?** Who is the author or sponsoring organization of this web site? What makes the author an expert in the field written about? What credentials does the author or organization have? Is there any contact information listed for the author or organization?

    _____

    _____

    _____

d. **Why?** What is the purpose of this web site – to educate, entertain, inform, persuade, sell something, etc.? Does the site contain any advertising? Is the information biased or does it push a specific perspective?

_____

_____

_____

e. **How?** Is the site easy to navigate? Are there any obvious signs of typos or errors? Does the author provide references so you can verify factual information?
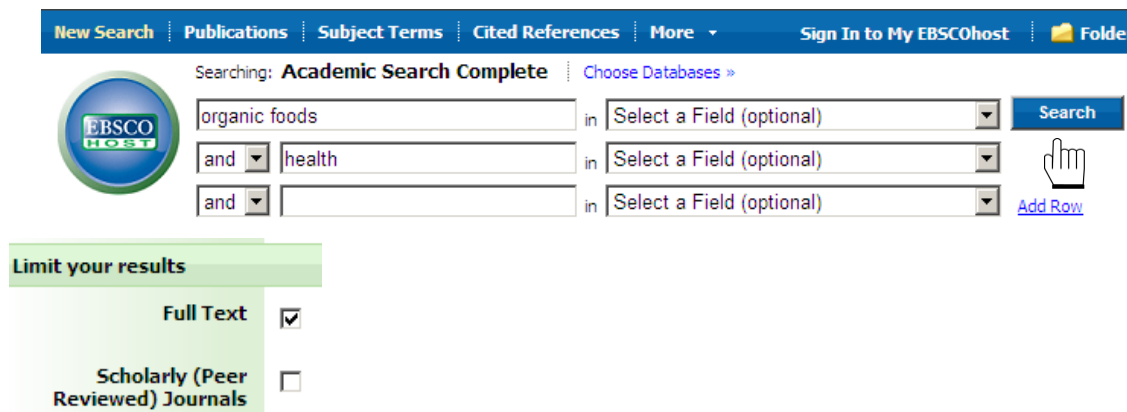
_____

_____

_____

f. Would you use this web site for a college level research assignment or paper? (_Select one_)

_____ Yes   _____ No

4. **Print out and attach the 1ˢᵗ page** of this web site to this worksheet.

B. Academic Search Complete Database

1. Using the same search terms you used in the Google exercise, perform a search using the library database, **Academic Search Complete**.

2. From the library's home page at http://library.reynolds.edu, click on **Academic Search Complete** from the _Popular Databases_ menu on the left. If you are accessing any of the databases from off-campus, you will be brought to a Virginia's Community Colleges login screen. Type your – **My JSRCC** (Blackboard) username and password to login.

3. When the Academic Search Complete search screen appears, **type your search terms** in the search windows provided. Checkmark the **Full Text** box under the _Limit your results_ section. Press the <**Enter**> key or click on the **Search** button to execute the search.

4. When the results screen appears, review your results list and **select one article to evaluate**. List the author's name (if available) and the article title below:

    Author's name (if available): _____

    Article title: _____

5. Use the criteria below to evaluate this article:

    a. **What?** What does the article cover? Is it relevant to my topic? Does the article provide general or comprehensive information? What type of audience is the article written for? If there is an issue, are both sides presented?

        _____

        _____

        _____

    b. **When?** What is the publication date of this article? Is the information up-to-date enough for my topic?

        _____

        _____

        _____

    c. **Who?** Who is the author of this article?   What makes the author an expert in the field written about? What credentials does the author have? Is there any contact information listed for the author?

        _____

        _____

        _____

    d. **Why?** What is the purpose of this article – to educate, entertain, inform, persuade, sell something, etc.? Does the article contain any advertising? Is the information biased or does it push a specific perspective?

        _____

        _____

        _____

e. **How?** Are there any obvious signs of typos or errors? Does the author provide references so you can verify factual information?

_____

_____

_____

f. Would you use this article for a college level research assignment or paper? (*Select one*)

_____ Yes   _____ No

7. **Print out and attach the 1st page** of this article to this worksheet.