# TEACHING CAN BE TAUGHT

## Wisdom Will Follow

Georgia Conference on Information Literacy October 1, 2010 Savannah, Georgia

Presenters represent Valdosta State University's Master of Library and Information Science Program

## Presenters

Introduction: Anita Ondrusek, Associate Professor, Valdosta State University

Lesson 1: Betty Wright, Georgia State University Law Library, Atlanta, GA

Lesson 2: Kathryn Leache, Lucius E. and Elsie C. Burch, Jr. Library, Collierville, TN

Lesson 3: Vivian Bynoe, Savannah Technical College, Savannah, GA

Lesson 4: Ruth Faircloth, Middle Georgia Technical College, Warner Robins, GA

# Introduction

## An academic teaching librarian's dilemma

- You have 50 to 90 minutes to present an overview on resources and skills needed to complete a course assignment.
- You want an original approach something to arouse curiosity and engage the students.
- Oh, one more thing your accreditation standards also require that you evaluate student learning.

# First, make a plan (Polya)

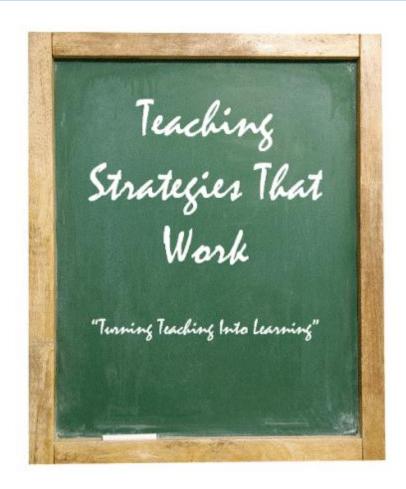


# Put your plan for learning into words<sup>1</sup>

- □ Give your presentation a title
- State the circumstances of your instruction
- Articulate your teaching goals and learning objectives
- Outline how you will prepare
- Plan out your presentation
- Devise an evaluation activity

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Adapted from Jacobson & Gatti (2001).

## Select strategies for teaching



## A Popular Instructional Model

Robert Gagne proposed that sequencing instruction into steps that he labeled as "events" of instruction will increase learner engagement and retention of the material taught.

## Gagne's Nine Events of Instruction

- Gain attention
- Inform learners of objectives
- Stimulate recall of prior learning
- Present the content
- Provide learning guidance
- Elicit performance (practice or rehearsal)
- Provide feedback
- Assess performance
- Enhance retention and transfer

## Attention-getters

Analogies

Anecdotes

**Pictures** 

Media clips

Advanced organizers

(Outlines or diagrams that give the "big picture")

## Learning guidance

Examples

Elaboration

Handouts

Scaffolding

(Helps students do what they can't yet do independently)

## Instructional approaches

Lecture

**Demonstration** 

Lecture-Demonstration

**Guided Demonstration** 

Self-paced Tutorial

#### Practice

Hands-on activity
Self-directed activity
Small-group activity
Drill-and-practice exercise
Individual or group rehearsal

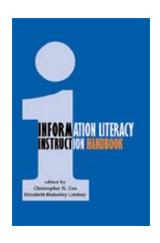
#### Evaluation

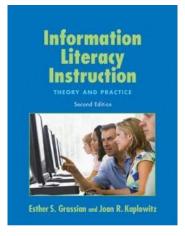
Informal or Formal

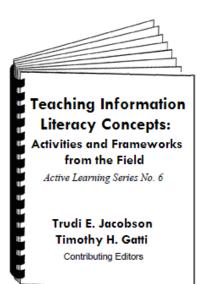
Immediate or Delayed

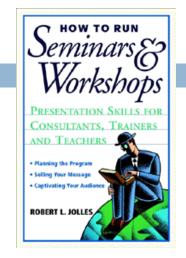
In class or Outside class

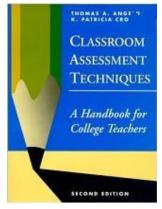
# Further reading













# Putting Gagne into practice . . .

Today's presenters will demonstrate how to make Gagne's events of instruction work for teaching:

- Law students to use Shepard's Citation Service
- Healthcare majors to identify scholarly sources
- Undergraduates how to evaluate web sites
   (the second and fourth "lessons" cover these concepts)

# DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOU...SHEPARDIZE!

Updating legal research using the Shepard's Citation Service on LexisNexis TM

**Betty Wright** 

#### Introduction

This lesson teaches law students about the importance and function of the Shepard's online citator.

Using the Shepard's online citator service, law students in the legal research course at ABC law school will:

- Shepardize a particular case without error
- Replicate the process of Shepardizing a case when preparing their semester project.

#### Circumstances of Instruction

Law students at the ABC law school are required to take a semester long course on legal research and writing given by Law Librarian, Betty Wright. At the end of the semester students must prepare a legal brief of a case assigned to them at the beginning of the semester. Since this is a semester long project, each student has been assigned a particular legal issue to study and do various legal research exercises and activities throughout the semester. The lesson today instructs students on Shepardizing a case to find out its status, the history, as well as other cases that cited to the decision. This is a major part of their project, therefore after this lesson the students will Shepardize their own case and include the results in their brief.

#### Needs Assessment

Before this instruction, students were given a review of the LexisNexis database. Questions posed by Mrs. Wright determined that the lesson needed to focus on the importance of using a legal citator such as Shepard's and focus mainly on the major features of the Shepard's citation system online.

## Information Literacy Standards

- Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education
  - (Formulated by ACRL, the Association of College and Research Libraries in ALA)
- This lesson will allow students to determine the extent of information needed; access the needed information effectively and efficiently; evaluate information and its sources critically; incorporate selected information into one's knowledge base; use information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose; and understand the economic, legal and social issues surrounding the use of information, and access and use information ethically and legally.

## Instruction begins:

#### What is a citator?

- Principal tool for updating legal authorities.
- An index or compilation listing every instance in which a legal authority has been cited.
- A tool that helps you determine what has happened to your case, statue, or regulation after it was released.

#### Use Citators to:

- Determine if the authority (case) is still "good law"
  - Was it overruled, reversed, criticized, or affirmed?
- Trace the history of a given authority
  - When was it ruled, appealed, etc.?
- Find sources addressing the same legal issue.
  - What other cases have ruled on this point of law?

## Importance of Using a Citator

#### Stare decisis

- Under the doctrine of stare decisis, previously decided cases serve as a model for resolution of future disputes involving similar legal principles of fact patterns.
  - Legal researchers cite to cases in support of their arguments in order to convince the court that the issues or facts presented in their case should be decided in the same way as the earlier cases, or to argue that the facts or issues presented in their cases are sufficiently different to warrant the same treatment.

## Importance of Using a Citator

- Before you cite any primary authority in any document you prepare, you must ensure it is still "good law".
  - This is an inflexible rule of legal research.
- Several courts have discussed the importance of proper updating and a lawyer's professional responsibility to ensure the reliability of the authority they cite.
  - Meadowbrook v. Fowler, 959 P.2d. 115,120 n.11 (Utah 1998),
    - "The process of 'Shepardizing' [updating] a case is fundamental to legal research."

## How Shepardizing applies to a real case:

Play the video clip from the O. J. Simpson trial <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QFOY0Glg0gU">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QFOY0Glg0gU</a>

## **Guided Activity**

#### Client Scenario:

- Client believes he has been discriminated against based on age.
- Has been an employee for over 15 years.
- At the time of termination overheard a supervisor refer to him as "an old salesman" that needed to be replaced with a "bright young person".

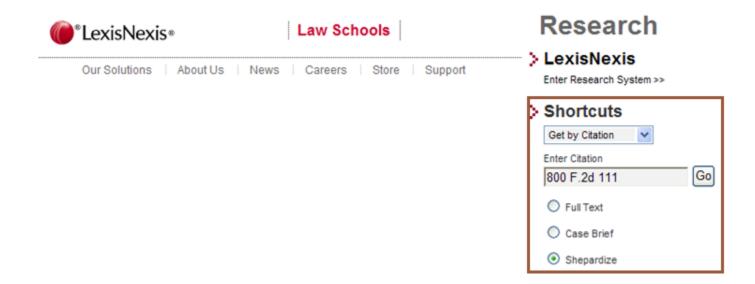
#### Start with the citation:

McNeil v. Economics Laboratory, Inc.

800 F.2d 111

Age-discrimination suit where the Plaintiff was removed from a sales manager position and offered a non-salaried, commission-based position as a sales representative.

# Use the LexisNexis shortcut to Shepard's and enter your citation:



## Start your research with the Summary:

McNeil v. Economics Laboratory, Inc., 800 F.2d 111, 1986 U.S. App. LEXIS 29174, 41 Empl. Prac. Dec. (CCH) P36492, 41 Fair Empl. Prac. Cas. (BNA) 1789 (7th Cir. Ill. 1986)

#### SHEPARD'S SUMMARY

**∃ HIDE** 

#### Unrestricted Shepard's Summary

No negative subsequent appellate history.

#### Citing References:

Warning Analyses: Overruled (2)

Cautionary Analyses: <u>Distinguished (6)</u>

Positive Analyses: Followed (10)

Neutral Analyses: Concurring Opinion (1), Dissenting Op. (2), Explained (1)

Other Sources: Law Reviews (13), Statutes (1), Treatises (15), Court Documents (17)

LexisNexis Headnotes: HN2 (3), HN3 (7), HN4 (11), HN5 (7), HN6 (12), HN8 (5), HN9 (20), HN10 (8), HN11 (10), HN13 (12), HN14 (10),

HN15 (5), HN16 (60), HN17 (29), HN18 (14)

Show full text of headnotes

## Use the Shepard's citator chart:

#### Shepard's Signal™ Indicators



Warning—Negative treatment indicated
Contains strong negative history of treatment of your case
(for example, overruled by or reversed).



Caution—possible negative treatment indicated

Contains history or treatment that may have a significant negative impact on your case (for example, limited or criticized by).



Positive treatment indicated

Contains history or treatment that has a positive impact on your case (for example, affirmed or followed by).

Only Shepard's offers this treatment.



Cited and neutral analysis indicated

Contains treatment of your case that is neither positive nor negative.



Citation information available

Indicates that citing references are available for your case but do not have history or treatment analysis (for example, the references are law review citations).

#### Follow the citator links to:

#### **Overrulings**

32. Overruled by:

Coston v. Plitt Theatres, 860 F.2d 834, 1988 U.S. App. LEXIS 14758, 48 Empl. Prac. Dec. (CCH) P38422, 48 Fair Empl. Prac. Cas. (BNA) 248 (7th Cir. Ill. 1988) LexisNexis Headnotes HN9, HN10

860 F.2d 834 p.836

#### Follow the citator links to:

#### **Prior histories**

#### PRIOR HISTORY ( 2 citing references ) Hide Prior History

- ← Select for Delivery
- McNeil v. Economics Laboratory, Inc., 1985 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 22994, 41 Fair Empl. Prac. Cas. (BNA) 1774 (N.D. Ill. Jan. 30, 1985)
- 2. Later proceeding at: MCNeil v. Economics Laboratory, Inc., 1985 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 18850, 41 Fair Empl. Prac. Cas. (BNA) 1779 (N.D. Ill. June 17, 1985)
  - Affirmed by (CITATION YOU ENTERED):

    McNeil v. Economics Laboratory, Inc., 800 F.2d 111, 1986 U.S. App. LEXIS 29174, 41 Empl. Prac. Dec. (CCH) P36492, 41 Fair Empl. Prac. Cas. (BNA) 1789 (7th Cir. Ill. 1986)

#### Follow the citator links to:

#### **Citing decisions**

```
CITING DECISIONS ( 107 citing decisions )

2ND CIRCUIT - U.S. DISTRICT COURTS

□ 5. Cited by:

Buscemi v. Pepsico, Inc., 736 F. Supp. 1267, 1990 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 4233, 53 Empl. Prac. Dec. (CCH) P39906, 62 Fair Empl. Prac. Cas.(BNA) 425 (S.D.N.Y. 1990)

736 F. Supp. 1267 p.1270

□ 6. Cited by:

Nobler v. Beth Israel Medical Center, 715 F. Supp. 570, 1989 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 6667, 50 Empl. Prac. Dec. (CCH) P39160, 55 Fair Empl. Prac. Cas. (BNA) 1531 (S.D.N.Y. 1989) LexisNexis Headnotes HN16

715 F. Supp. 570 p.573
```

#### Remember!

- Updating the law is not something you save for the end of your research.
  - Begin updating your cases as soon as you find them.
- Make sure you have fulfilled your legal research responsibilities.
  - Save yourself from potential embarrassment or even sanction.

### Homework!

Assignment 5, Exercise D from workbook.

Continue Shepardizing your case!

## Did you see these teaching techniques?

Instructional approach

Lecture-Demonstration

Learning guidance

Examples

Elaboration

Scaffolding (the citator chart)

Practice

Homework

Evaluation

Outside class

## Gagne events included in this excerpt:

- ★ Gain attention
- Inform learners of objectives
- Stimulate recall of prior learning
- Present the content
- \* Provide learning guidance
- \* Elicit performance (practice or rehearsal)
- Provide feedback
- \* Assess performance
- Enhance retention and transfer

# THERE'S MORE TO THE WEB THAN WIKIPEDIA

Kathryn Leache

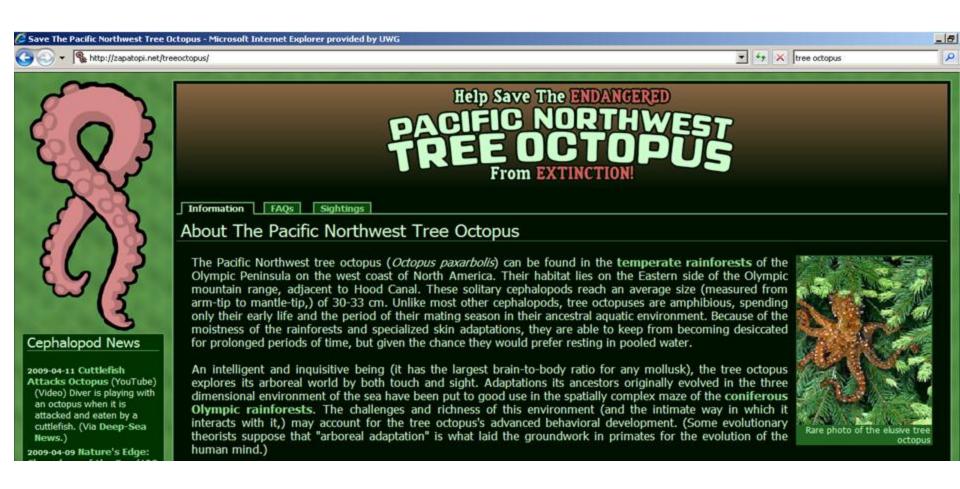
## Introduction

This lesson could be the first class of two instructional sessions on using websites as sources for research. In the first session, featured here, the librarians demonstrate how the open web is a valuable research tool by showing students what clues they can look for to identify reliable websites. In the second session, not featured here, students would learn how to manage websites and cite them.

## Now, on to our lesson . . .

In 2006, a University of Connecticut professor asked 25 seventh graders to evaluate a site on the endangered Pacific Northwest tree octopus.

## Here's the top of the home page:



## Result:

24 out of 25 recommended the site to another class that they were told were doing the same assignment.

## Why did it fool them?

- Well done
- Scientific jargon
- Pictures
- Email contact



## This guy is good!

- Page of viewer-submitted sightings
- Buy ribbons and bumper stickers



## Using Online Sources in College

Some of you may have been taught in high school to stay away from web sources when researching for projects or papers...

which is not realistic in today's technological environment.

The web it is a wonderful source of scholarly information and is more so every day thanks to digitization initiatives.

## Have you ever...

...used an online source for a paper or project without checking the validity or reliability?

If you said "Yes"...

You are not alone.

In the same study in which the tree octopus site was used, 57% of a group of questioned students NEVER checked the accuracy of web content.

## YOUR Responsibility

You DO have to be careful, though...and do some detective work when looking at web sources.

Today we will explore clues to a web source's trustworthiness and practice looking for those clues.

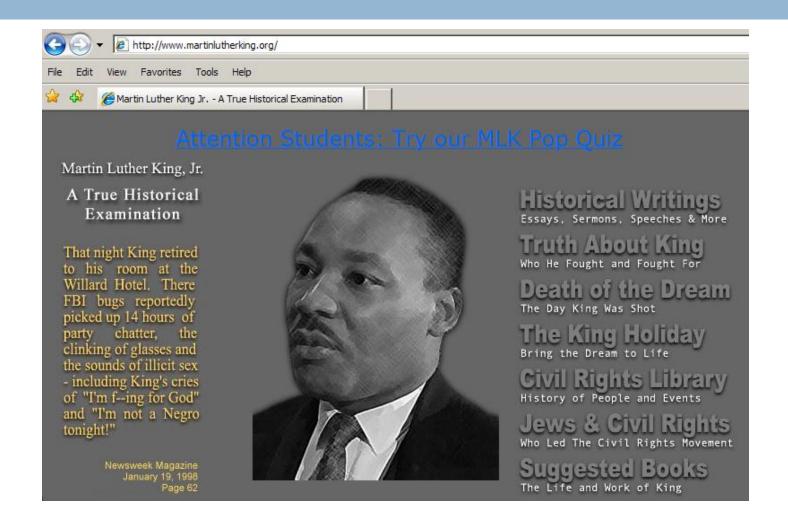
## Looking for clues

- Clues
  - Domain extension
  - Author(ity)
  - Quality
  - Overall (holistic) view

## First Clue: The Source

- Domain extensions
  - .com...commercial
  - .org...organizations
  - □ .net...network
  - □ .biz...business
  - .gov...government
  - .edu...education
  - .us or other country extensions
- Use of .com, .org, .net is muddied

## Example 1 http://www.martinlutherking.org



#### Look for the source of the site

- If you see no authority information or contact information, truncate backwards like this:
- http://nobelprize.org/nobel\_prizes/peace/laureates/1964/king-bio.html
- □ http://nobelprize.org/nobel\_prizes/peace/laureates/1964
- http://nobelprize.org/nobel\_prizes/peace/laureates

You can also go straight to the root site:

□ http://nobelprize.org

#### Example 2

## http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Margaret\_Mitchell.aspx



**ENCYCLopedia**•com

Search over 100 encyclopedias and dictionaries:

Search

#### **Margaret Mitchell**

The Columbia Encyclopedia, Sixth Edition | 2008 | Copyright

Margaret Mitchell 1900-1949, American novelist, b. <u>Atlanta</u>, Ga. Her one novel, *Gone with the Wind* (1936; <u>Pulitzer Prize</u>), a romantic, panoramic portrait of the <u>Civil War</u> and <u>Reconstruction</u> periods in <u>Georgia</u>, is one of the most popular novels in the history of American publishing. The film adaptation (1939) has also been extraordinarily successful.

## You try it:

To find the source, you will have to truncate:

http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Margaret\_Mitchell.aspx

What is the origin of the source?

## Second Clue

#### Author(ity)

Who wrote/owns/manages the site?

- Look for a link to the home page
- Look for "About" or "About us" or "Site managed by"
   at the bottom of the main/root page
   or for a link at the top of the page
- Look for a "Contact" or e-mail address

#### This site has several links to check Authority. What are they?

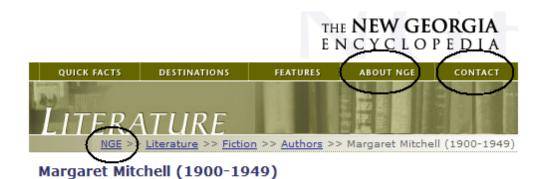




#### Margaret Mitchell (1900-1949)

Margaret Mitchell was the author of <u>Gone With the Wind</u>, one of the most popular books of all time. The novel was published in 1936 and sold more than a million copies in the first six months, a phenomenal feat considering it was the <u>Great Depression</u> era. More than 30 million copies of this masterpiece, set during the <u>Civil War</u> (1861-65), have been sold worldwide in thirty-eight countries. It has been translated into twenty-seven languages. Approximately 250,000 copies are still sold each year. Shortly after the book's publication the <u>movie</u> rights were sold to David O. Selznick for \$50,000, the highest amount ever paid for a manuscript up to that time. In 1937 Margaret Mitchell was awarded the Pulitzer Prize.

#### Answers: "About" link | "Contact" link | Jump back to the homepage



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#### What links might you follow to determine Authority for this site?



#### One possible answer: Go to the "General Information" page



Contact Us! | Directions | Documents & Photographs | Friends of the Library | Interns/Volunteers | Search | Site Index

Home Information | Library/Research | Museum | Education | Youth Space | Events | News | Virtual Tour | Related Links

#### General Information

Jimmy Carter's Nobel Peace Prize is on display

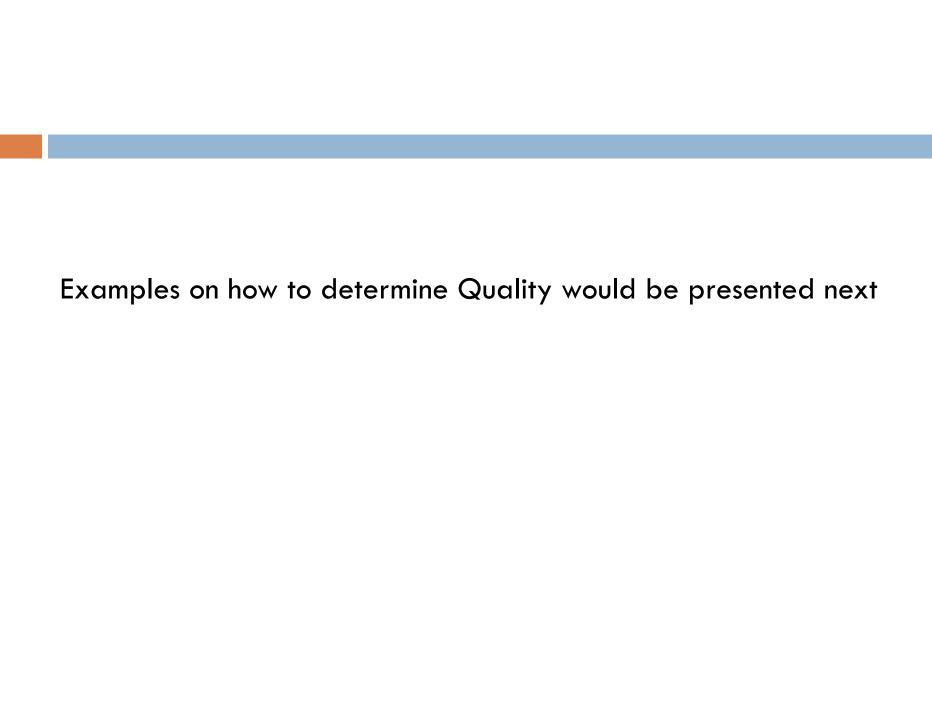
- Mailing Address: 441 Freedom Parkway, Atlanta, Georgia 30307-1498, USA
- Telephone: 404-865-7100
- Fax: 404-865-7102
- Contact Us
- WWW Address: www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov
- Museum Hours: 9:00 am 4:45 pm, Monday Saturday; 12:00 pm 4:45 pm, Sunday
- Museum Admission: \$8.00 Adults; \$6.00 Seniors (60+), Military, and students with IDs; Free Children (16 and under)
- Library (Research) Hours: 8:30am 4:30pm, Monday Friday.
- Public Conveniences: Restrooms are to the right of the entrance and down the stairs. Telephones and water fountains are in the same area along the corridor.
- . Restaurant Hours: 11:00 am 3:00 pm, Monday Friday; 11:00 am 2:00 pm, Saturday; CLOSED, Sunday
- Administration: National Archives and Records Administration, under provisions of the Presidential Libraries Act of 1955.
- Architects: Jova\Daniels\Busby of Atlanta and Lawton, Umemura & Yamamoto of Honolulu. Construction began in October, 1984 and was completed in October, 1986. Private funds were raised for the \$26 million complex.
- . Landscape: EDAW, Inc. of Atlanta and Alexandria, Virginia. Japanese Garden was designed by Japanese master gardener, Kinsaku Nakane. The grounds comprise of 35 acres.
- Building: The Library consists of an archives and a museum and is approximately 69,750 square feet in size. This includes 15,269 square feet of exhibit space and 19,818 square feet of collection storage space. It is not a library in the usual sense but is a research facility and a museum. The archives is a repository of approximately 27 million pages of Jimmy Carter's White House material, papers of administration associates, including documents, memoranda, correspondence, etc. There are also 1/2 million photographs, and hundreds of hours film, audio and video tape.

#### Additional Information:

- Information About Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter
- Directions and Map
- · Friends of the Library
- · Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities
- Internship Opportunities
- Museum Docents
- Museum Store
- Staff Directory
- Library Fees for Copy Services
- About Presidential Libraries
- Appraisal or Authentication of Materials
- Comments, Questions, and Requests

## Third Clue

- Quality
- Links / supporting documentation
- Copyright info
- Varied views
- Is the page current?



## Fourth Clue

- Holistic view
- Does it 'feel' right?
- Why does the site appear to exist?
- Entertain, persuade, inform?

Examples on the Holistic method of determining credibility would be presented next

## Wrap Up

- □ Clues for evaluating web sites
  - Domain extension
  - Author(ity)
  - Quality
  - Overall (holistic) view

## Practice exercise

Would you trust the links on this website for collecting information on Martin Luther King Jr.?

Identify four clues to support your answer.

#### Domain name clue? http://www.stormfront.org/forum/f81



#### Authority clues – any "About" or "Contact" links?



Quality clue: Why does the site exist?



#### More Quality clues – Copyright? Supporting documentation?



#### Look at the Discussion topics – What points of view are represented?



#### A Holistic test - Does the site "feel" right?



## Remember the Octopus!

- Clues to evaluate web sites:
- Look closely at the URL:
- Is it a personal web page? What does the domain tell you? Can you truncate back to the root/home page? Who is the publisher?
- Author(ity):
- □ Is there an author's name or agency mentioned? Contact info? What are the author's credentials?
- Scan the whole page:
- Is there an "About us" link or something similar? If not, again, truncate back to the main page and look again. What is the last date it was updated?
- Look for "Quality" clues:
- Are there footnotes or links to supporting documentation? If yes, explore them. Do they appear reputable and/or scholarly?

  Are they even real? Do they work? Is there copyright information? Do the links represent other viewpoints or are they biased?
- Does it all add up? What does your gut tell you? Why does this page appear to exist? Is its purpose to pass along facts, sell something, or convince you of something? The web is a public place...open to all. Remember that.
- "Librarian-Approved" Web Indexes
- Use these sites with confidence!
- □ Librarians' Internet Index : Websites You Can Trust
- □ http://www.lii.org
- □ The Internet Public Library
- □ http://www.ipl.org

## Transfer of Learning

Evaluate these websites in terms of reliability. Using the four criteria from the lesson, specify which websites would be appropriate as a resource for a biography report and which ones would not. Tell why.

http://www.history-of-rock.com/otis redding.htm

http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/nge/Article.jsp?path=/GovernmentPolitics/Politics/PoliticalFigures&id=h-2781

http://www.ibiblio.org/sncc/lewis.html

http://womenshistory.about.com/od/alicewalker/a/alice walker.htm

## Did you see these teaching techniques?

Instructional approach

Anecdote

Lecture-Demonstration

Learning guidance

Examples

Elaboration

Scaffolding (the "Remember the Octopus" handout)

□ Practice & Evaluation

In-class, hands-on activity

Outside class exercise

## Gagne events included in this excerpt:

- ★ Gain attention
- ★ Inform learners of objectives
- \* Stimulate recall of prior learning
- Present the content
- Provide learning guidance
- \* Elicit performance (practice or rehearsal)
- Provide feedback
- \* Assess performance
- \* Enhance retention and transfer

## WHAT IS A SCHOLARLY SOURCE?

## Vivian Bynoe

#### Introduction

This lesson is designed to show nursing students how to distinguish between academic and popular articles.

#### Circumstances of Instruction

- The instructor for the Introduction to Healthcare class at Savannah Technical College has asked her students to find three scholarly articles to summarize. When the students return with their articles she is disappointed.
- She realizes that she made a mistake in assuming that the class knew the difference between scholarly and popular resources.

#### Meet Denise

#### Case Scenario:

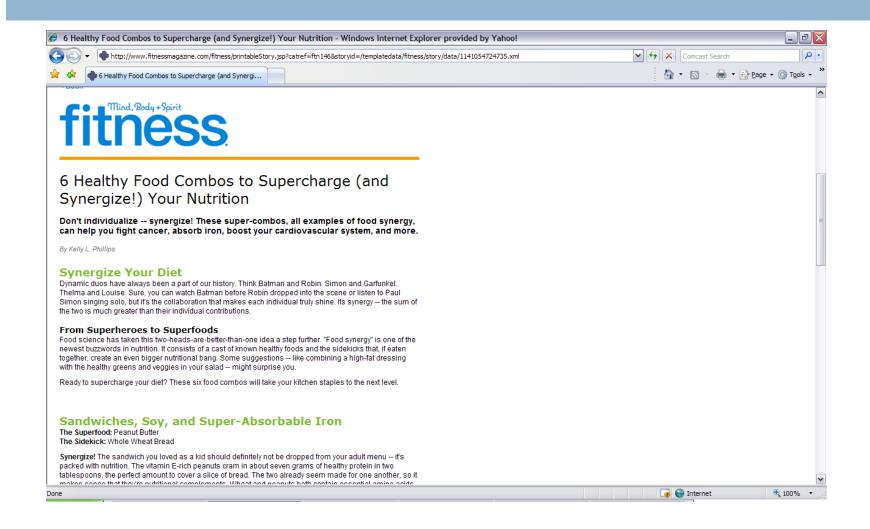
Denise's mother was recently diagnosed with breast cancer. She is concerned because her grandmother is a breast cancer survivor as well and Denise wants to know what she can do to decrease her own risk.

#### Denise starts her research

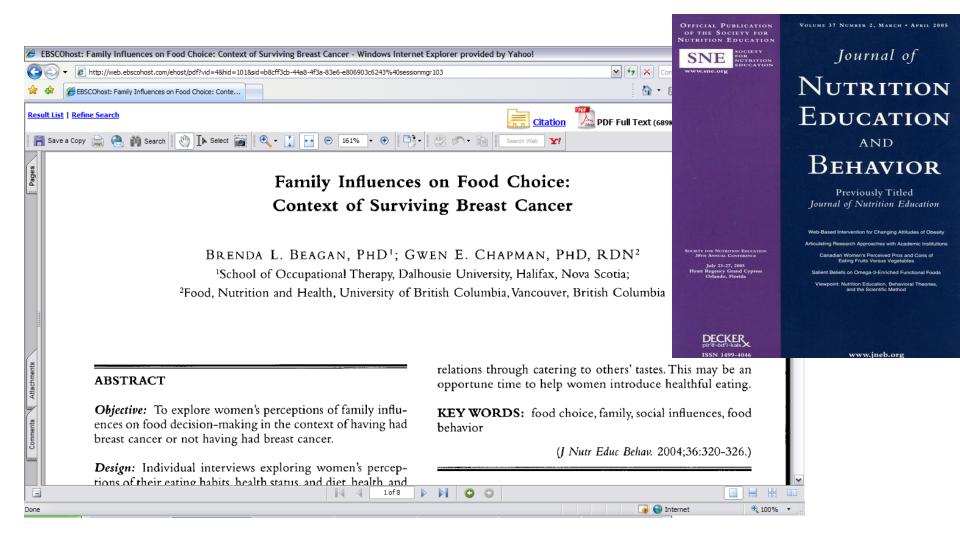
She decides to do some research of her own and comes across two articles that she likes. However, she is not sure which article will be best for her to rely on for sound advice.

Let's see what she finds...

#### Denise's first article:



#### Denise's second article:



#### So much information, what do I choose....

- Not all information is valid for your research as a student.
- Two types of sources are available:

Scholarly

**Popular** 

## Today you will learn how to:

- Determine the difference between scholarly and popular sources
- Evaluate the two resources Denise identified
- Leave with an understanding of how to locate three scholarly sources for your assignment

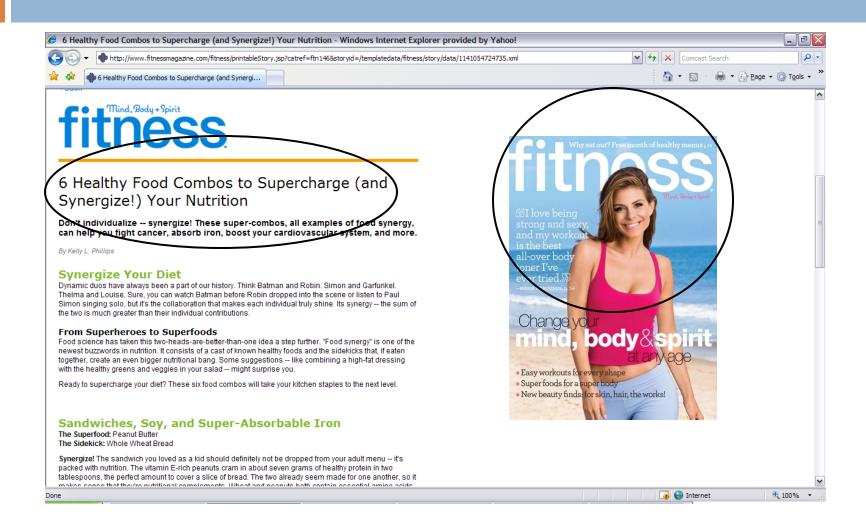
## Characteristics of Popular Sources

- Audience The General Public
- Writers Journalists, Reporters, Bloggers, Anyone!
- Contents Current News, Entertainment, Popular Language,
   Opinionated, No references
- Published Daily or weekly
- Appearance Glossy Pages, Photographs, Attractive, Catchy phrases

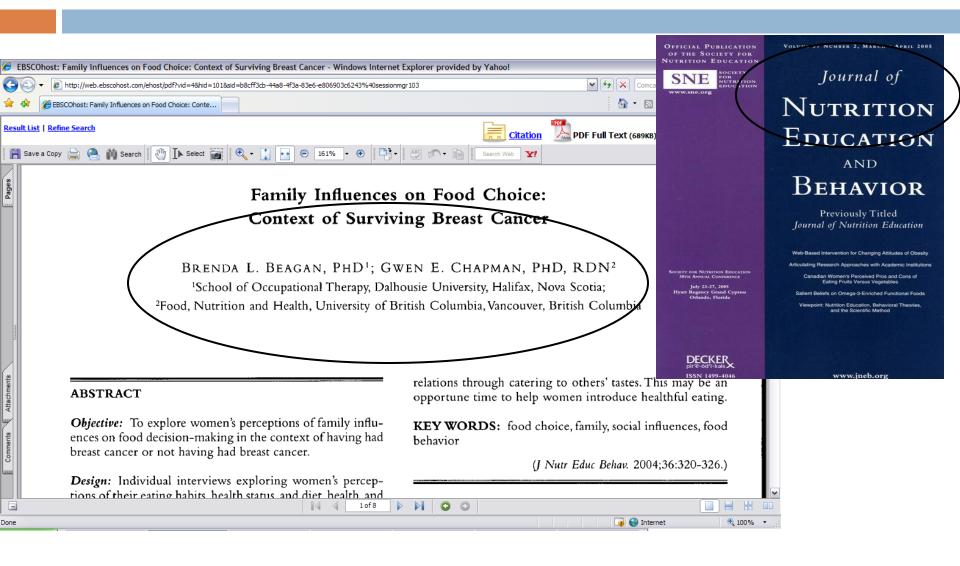
## Characteristics of Scholarly Sources

- Audience Researchers, Scholars, Experts, Students
- Writers Professionals, Researchers, Experts
- Contents Research studies, Professional Language, Reference Lists, Facts
- Published Monthly or quarterly
- Appearance Very few ads, More Text, Less Attractive

#### Back to Denise's first article: Popular or Scholarly? Why?



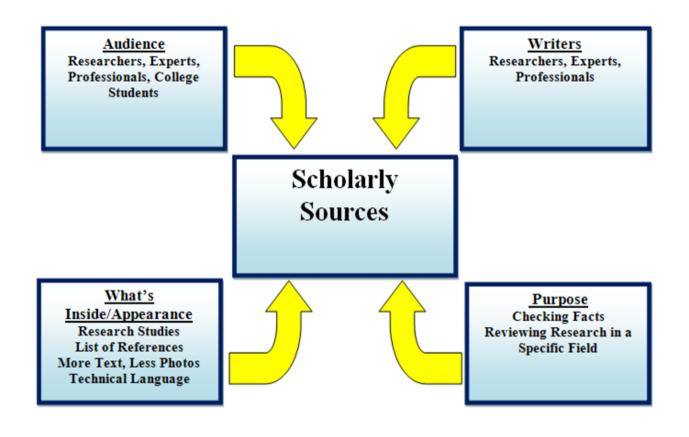
#### Back to Denise's second article: Popular or Scholarly? Why?



#### Are popular sources ever useful for research?

Popular sources are great for generating ideas for your research. You can use them as part of the brainstorming process....but for this class assignment your articles need to be from scholarly sources.

#### Let's review



## Scholarly Source Game

Divide the class into two groups. True — false questions on scholarly and popular articles will be asked. One person from each group will answer a question either at the board or from their seats. Whoever gets the correct answer first scores a point for that group. The next person in the group gets a chance to answer a question.

## Sample true-false game questions

Scholarly sources contain few advertisements.

Scholarly sources are usually published daily or weekly.

It is best to stick with scholarly sources when seeking in-depth research on a topic.

Popular sources tend to cover current topics or trends.

You find an article that discusses the benefits of red wine. The source is *Runner's World Magazine*. Is this a scholarly source?

Bonus Point: Why or why not?



#### **Evaluation**

At the end of the instructional session, students will be given a take-home quiz that consists of four questions. The quiz will be graded for extra credit. The students have one week to locate and summarize three articles, and the instructor will request a list of citations midway through the week.

#### Retention

- Students will return the take-home quiz and the instructor will evaluate their answers.
- The librarian invites the students to visit the library for further assistance in locating their articles

## Did you see these teaching techniques?

- Instructional approachLecture-Demonstration
- Learning guidanceExamplesElaboration
- RetentionScholarly Sources handout
- Practice & Evaluation
   Informal true-false game
   Formal take-home exercise

## Gagne events included in this excerpt:

- ★ Gain attention
- ★ Inform learners of objectives
- Stimulate recall of prior learning
- resent the content
- \* Provide learning guidance
- ★ Elicit performance (practice or rehearsal)
- Provide feedback
- \* Assess performance
- \* Enhance retention and transfer

# EVALUATING WEB SITES: USEFUL GADGETS

Stephanie Crane and Ruth Faircloth

#### Introduction

This lesson is designed to demonstrate the concept of evaluating the authority, relevance/usefulness, bias, and currency of information on the Internet to undergraduates.

#### Circumstances of Instruction

Student-Centered University has requested the implementation of an Information Literacy course which will be incorporated into the curriculum as a required core class to be taken in the first semester of the freshman year.

#### **Needs Assessment**

In consultation with the IT department, an interactive activity is uploaded on all computers within the classroom, called: "Website Evaluation: Useful Gadgets."

Faculty who teach core requirement courses, student representatives, and reference librarians collaborate during a series of meetings to gather information and then plan a sequence of scheduled instructional lectures throughout the semester-long class. Reference librarians, Crane and Faircloth agree to teach the sequence dealing with evaluating web sources. During lesson planning, they consult the following sources:

- Cassell, K., & Hiremath, U. (2006). Reference and information services
- in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. New York: Neal-Schuman.
- Birks, J., & Hunt, F. (2003). Hands-on information literacy activities.
- New York: Neal-Schuman.
  - Activity & Worksheet adapted from "Evaluating Web Sites I",
  - (p. 57-71).
- Searching the Web-An Educator's Reference Desk Lesson Plan.
- http://www.eduref.org/Virtual/Lessons/Information Literacy/IFO0202.html

## Information Literacy Standard

#### Standard Three:

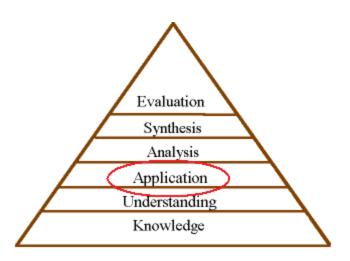
The information literate student evaluates information and its sources critically and incorporates selected information into his or her knowledge base and value system.

#### Performance Indicators:

- summarizes main ideas extracted from gathered information
- articulates and applies criteria for evaluating both information and its sources
- synthesizes main ideas to construct new concepts

## Bloom's Taxonomy Level Application

**Application**: apply, choose, demonstrate, dramatize, employ, illustrate, interpret, operate, practice, schedule, sketch, solve, use, write



## **Teaching Goals**

To demonstrate the concept of evaluating the authority, relevance/usefulness, bias, and currency of electronic information sources.

## Learning Objectives

- 1. Students will determine **authority** of a website using author, bibliography, e-mail contact, contact information, links, design elements, spelling, grammar, reviews and ratings.
- 2. Students will determine **relevance** or **usefulness** of a website using audience, content and keywords.
- 3. Students will determines **bias** of a website using e-commerce, opinions, perspectives, or sponsors.
- 4. Students will determine **currency** of a website using updated date, revised date, copyright date, and active links.

## Preparation of Materials

- Computers with Internet access (Computer lab or classroom)
- □ Sample web sites for examination: <a href="http://www.ncahf.org/">http://www.ncahf.org/</a>
- Software program: Useful Gadgets interactive game
- Worksheet
- Allotted time: 50 minutes

## The instruction begins . . .

- As students find their seats, a quirky Inspector Gadget theme song is playing.
- Using projected graphics, the teacher introduces Inspector
   Gadget as a character who uses his crazy cybernetic gadgets
   and gizmos to fight the evil M.A.D. organization.
- Gadget always uses the most relevant information. He searches for clues of the utmost authority. At times when he can't figure out how to battle evil, he must stand back and be unbiased to re-examine the clues.

## Now you will learn how to be an Inspector of websites using these gadgets:

**Authority** Relevance **Usefulness** Bias **Currency** 

The instructor then presents a series of homepages of web sites and points out which "gadget" will help determine the usefulness of the site.

### A YouTube video is examined first:



### A link to "Company Info" and a copyright date are found.

Your Account Videos Favorites Playlists

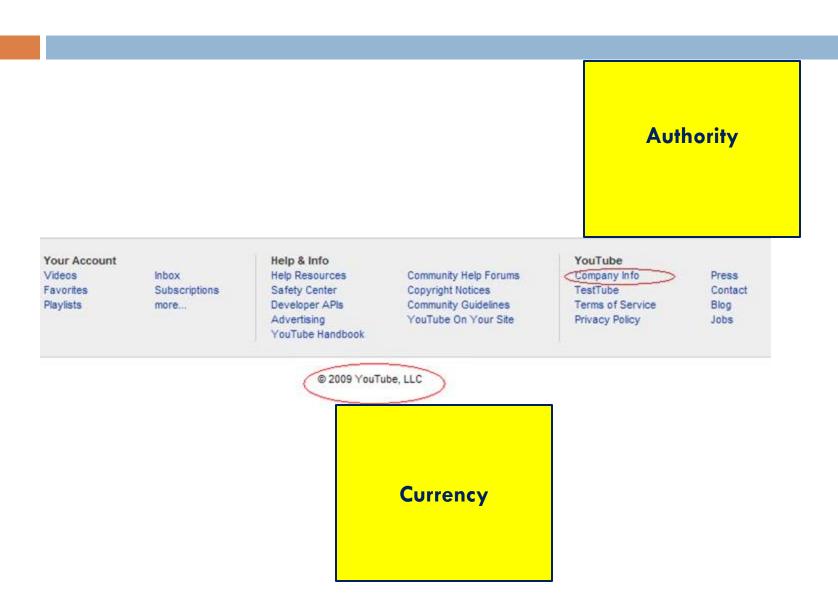
Inbox Subscriptions more... Help & Info
Help Resources
Safety Center
Developer APIs
Advertising
YouTube Handbook

Community Help Forums Copyright Notices Community Guidelines YouTube On Your Site YouTube
Company Info
TestTube
Terms of Service
Privacy Policy

Press Contact Blog Jobs

© 2009 YouTube, LLC

### These data match to Authority and Currency gadgets.



### Let's examine the "Mission Statement" for this site.

## National Council Against Health Fraud Enhancing Freedom of Choice through Reliable Health Information

Report a Fraud | Join Discussion List | Get Free Newsletters

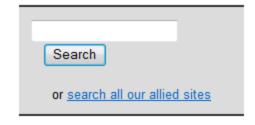




NCAHF is a private nonprofit, voluntary health agency that focuses upon health misinformation, fraud, and quackery as public health problems. Its positions are based upon the principles of science that underlie consumer protection law. It advocates: (a) adequate disclosure in labeling and other warranties to enable consumers to make truly informed choices; (b) premarketing proof of safety and effectiveness for products and services claimed to prevent, alleviate, or cure any health problem; and, (c) accountability for those who violate the law. This site, which belongs to long-time NCAHF board member Stephen Barrett, M.D., archives many of NCAHF's documents.

#### About NCAHF

- Mission Statement (updated 11/30/09)
- Quackery-Related Definitions (updated 3/2/01)
- NCAHF Manifesto (posted 12/1/00)
- NCAHF's History (posted 6/25/01)
- Contact Information (revised 11/30/09)



Its use and relevance to deterring health fraud seems clear.

#### NCAHF Mission Statement

The National Council Against Health Fraud is a nonprofit, tax-exempt voluntary health agency focused upon health fraud, misinformation, and quackery as public health problems. This site, which belongs to long-time NCAHF board member Stephen Barrett, M.D., archives many NCAHF documents that can help people evaluate health claims.

### It is honest about its bias towards consumers and science.

#### **Basic Principles**

NCAHF's founding principles were derived from consumer protection law and the scientific process.

Included are the beliefs that:

- "Consumer" is not a special class but a role played by all; everyone in a free enterprise society has a stake in maintaining high standards for health products and services.
- Professionals in the health sciences, academia, law and business as well as government agencies share a
  responsibility to help consumers protect themselves from deception and exploitation in health-related matters.
- The scientific process is essential for discovering truths and validating health claims and information.
- Health products and services should be:
  - o proved safe and effective before marketing with proponents bearing the burden of such proof
  - o accurately labeled or fully described
  - o truthfully advertised.
- As noted in the Consumer Bill of Rights, consumers have:
  - o The right to free and informed choice
  - o The right to accurate information
  - The right to safety
  - o The right to be heard
  - o The right to consumer education

### These data match to Relevance/Use and Bias gadgets.

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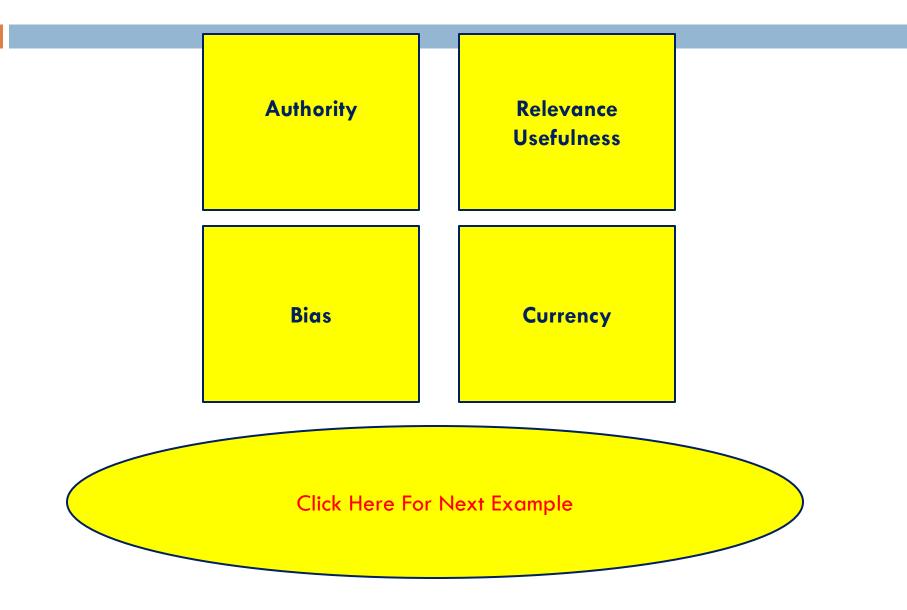
Relevance Usefulness



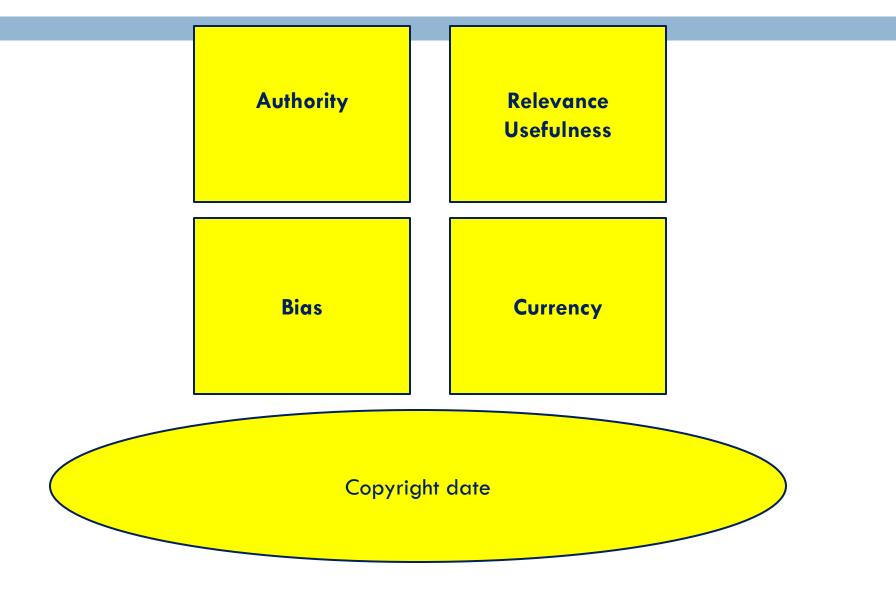
## **Practice Activity**

- An online quiz challenges students to match an element (e.g., copyright date) from a website to the "gadget" that determines a website's credibility.
- Students must match the website data to one of the 4 gadgets.
- A correct match gives a "correct" feedback message. An incorrect match gives a corrective feedback message.
- Students practice for 20 minutes.
- Teachers walk about the classroom to assist

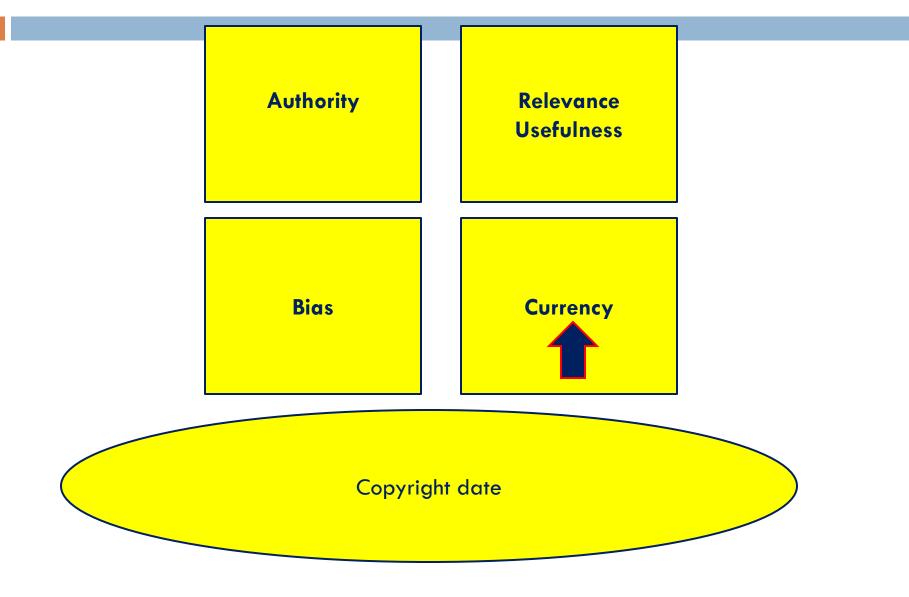
4 Gadgets and one example button display on the screen.



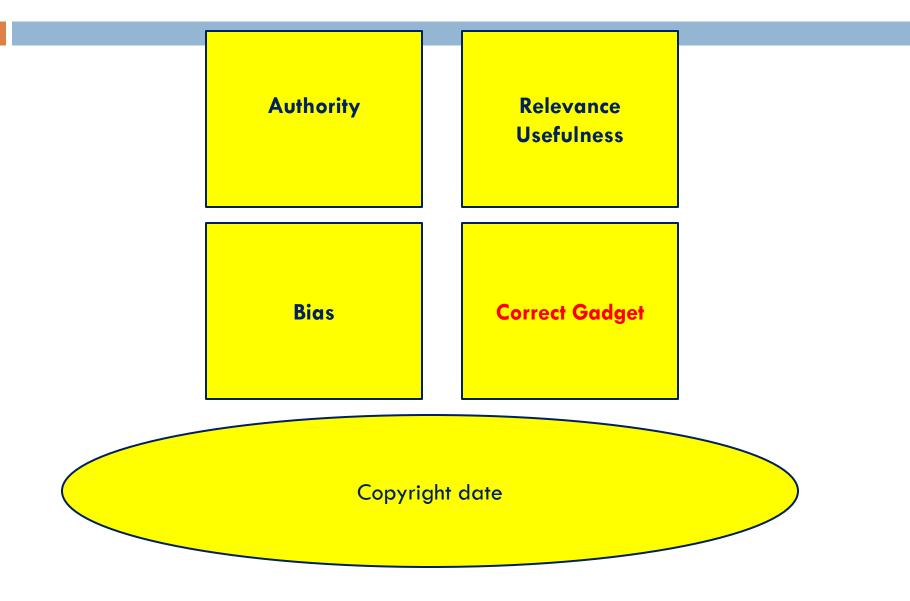
An element at the bottom must be matched to a gadget by clicking on the square containing its name.



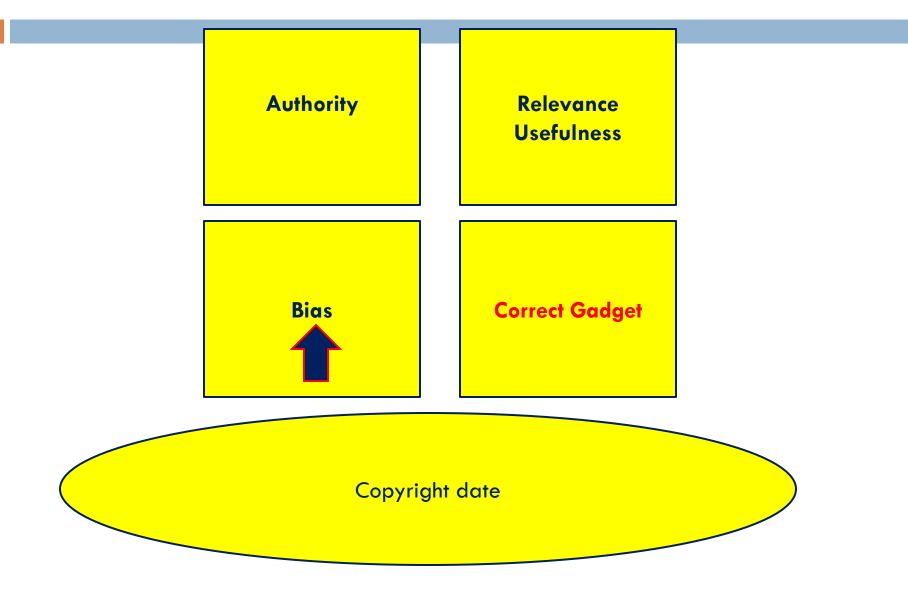
## When "Copyright date" appears, clicking on "Currency" . . .



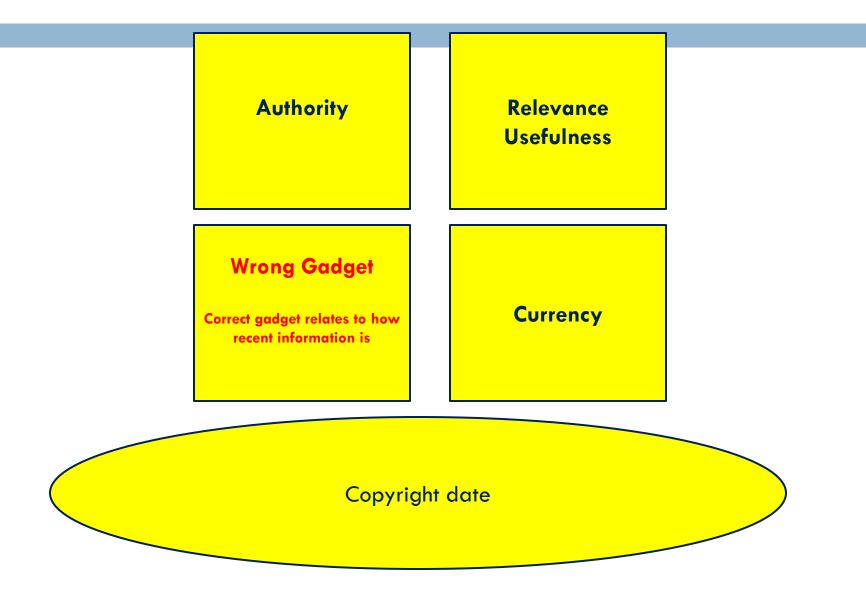
... results in a "Correct Gadget" message (as shown):



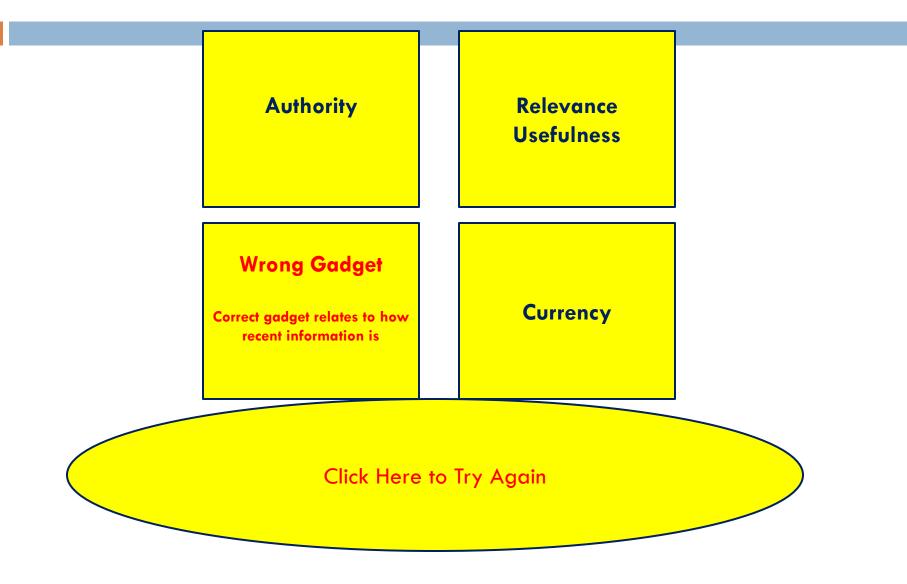
## Clicking on "Bias" as a match to "Copyright date" . . .

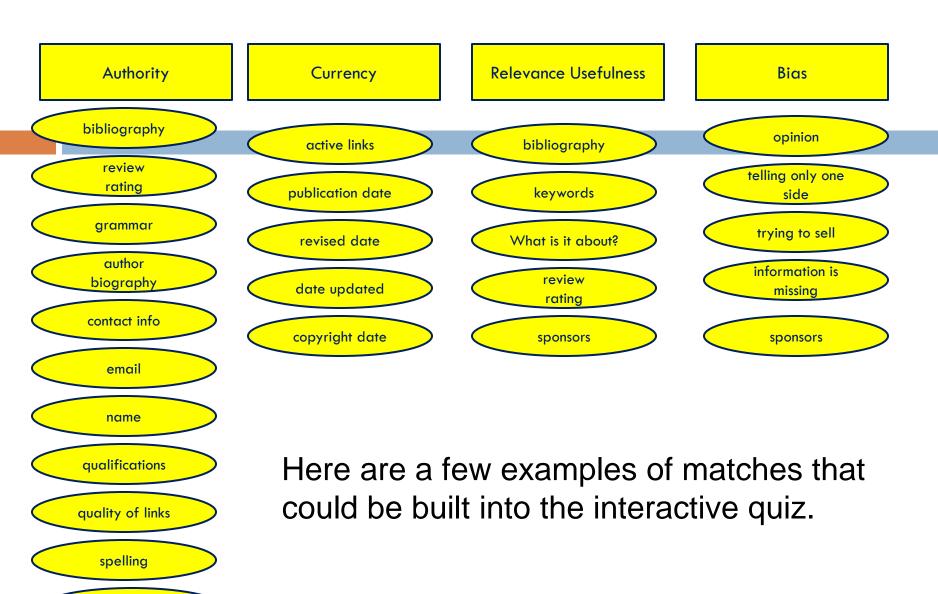


... results in a "Wrong Gadget" message (as shown):



The students may try again.





author

references

#### **Evaluating Web Sites: Useful Gadgets Worksheet**



Gadgets	Which Gadget is it?	Choose from:
<ul> <li>What it is about.</li> <li>Keywords</li> <li>Who the audience is.</li> </ul>		Authority  Relevance/Usefulness
<ul> <li>Updated date</li> <li>Revised date</li> <li>Copyright date</li> <li>Active links (ie. do they all work?)</li> <li>Author <ul> <li>name</li> <li>biography</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		Bias Currency
<ul> <li>credentials/qualifications</li> <li>other publications</li> <li>is there a group or organization responsible for the page?</li> <li>Bibliography</li> <li>E-mail contact/ contact information</li> <li>Quality of links – are they good ones?</li> <li>Design elements (does it look professional?)</li> <li>Spelling and grammar (are there mistakes?)</li> <li>Reviews and ratings</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>Trying to sell something?</li> <li>Opinion?</li> <li>Telling only part of the story?</li> <li>Is there a sponsor (eg. a company) who has a specific interest?</li> </ul>		

## Did you see these teaching techniques?

Instructional approach

Lecture-Demonstration

Learning guidance

Examples

Elaboration

Feedback from the tutorial and the instructor

□ Practice & Evaluation

In-class, interactive quiz

Homework assignment with worksheet

## Gagne events included in this excerpt:

- ★ Gain attention
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- ★ Elicit performance (practice or rehearsal)
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- Enhance retention and transfer

## Closing

## Tips

- Add the Nine Events of Gagne to your teaching techniques
- Use events when appropriate you need not use every event in every lesson you teach
- Consider using quizzes and games as practice and to test retention
- Allow for evaluation of learning to happen after the library instruction

# Thanks for joining us!