WEBSITE VALIDATION

How to find useful and accurate information on the web

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PURPOSE

To discuss the importance of website validation, checking to see that information we find on the web is useful and accurate.
QUESTIONS

- When you are given a research assignment in class, are you more likely to consult a book? The Internet? Both?

- Where are you more likely to encounter false information? A book? The Internet?
REMEMBER

Anyone with a computer can post information on the Internet. That’s why when we look things up on the web, we have to do careful searches, and be sure that we look the information over thoroughly, before using it in a report or other school project!
VALIDATE USING R.E.A.L.TECHNIQUE

Today I’m here to teach you about some things to look for when you’re looking up information on the web. When you enter your search term into Google and start checking out those zillions of hits that you get, you can use the term “REAL” to help you remember what to look for.

1. Read the URL
2. Examine the site’s content
3. Ask about the author/publisher
4. Look at the links
R: READ THE URL

R: Stands for “read the URL” What is the URL? What clues can it give us? Think in terms of .com, .org, .edu, .gov, etc. What about URLs that are really long with all kinds of numbers and symbols?
E: EXAMINE THE SITE’S CONTENT

E: Stands for “examine the site’s content” Read some of the page. Does the information seem correct based on what you already know?
A: ASK ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ PUBLISHER

A: Stands for “ask about the author/ publisher” Look at the site’s author. You can usually find a “contact” link somewhere on the site. Does the author or publisher seem professional and credible, or is there not enough information to tell? You can always do a search for that person or organization to find out more.
L: LOOK AT THE LINKS

L: Stands for “look at the links” Are the links included working and do they take you to other credible sites?
TRY IT OUT

Now, let’s try out what we’ve just talked about on a few websites to see what we can find out!

Websites to try out:

- **All About Explorers**: [http://www.allaboutexplorers.com](http://www.allaboutexplorers.com)
- **California’s Velcro Crop Under Challenge**: [http://home.inreach.com/kumbach/velcro.html](http://home.inreach.com/kumbach/velcro.html)
- **Dog Island Free Forever**: [http://www.thedogisland.com](http://www.thedogisland.com)
- **Martin Luther King**: [http://www.martinlutherking.org](http://www.martinlutherking.org)
- **The Pacific Northwest Tree Octopus**: [http://zapatopi.net/treectopus.html](http://zapatopi.net/treectopus.html)