Support Material 25: Evaluating Web Sites II

Instructor Guide

Use the two following examples for discussion with the class:

<http://www.cnn.com/WORLD/9708/31/diana.links/>

CNN news Web site on Diana. Looks authoritative enough, especially when the information is backed by other sources, but keep in mind that any news source could have some bias.

<http://www.monash.com/diana.html>

This site seems to satisfy most of the criteria, but when read, it becomes apparent that the content is biased and very personal. Created by novelist Linda Barlow. Be sure to look at the list of her other publications (historical fiction/romance/mysteries). In addition, the design is a clue to the nature of the content – be sure to point out that watermarked pink Lady Dianas are an instant warning sign!

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1. [http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/static/diana\_one\_year\_on/default.stm](http://www.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/static/diana_one_year_on/)

BBC Web site Diana page.

2. <http://www.paralumun.com/diana.htm>

Could be okay, but there is absolutely no author information given, or sources used or anything to indicate that the creator of the Web site didn’t just make it up…. (a good example to point students to is the Dodi link which includes obvious examples of spelling and grammatical errors as well as hearsay information)

3. <http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Congress/4333/>

Written by a 17-year-old male. Grammar is bad, spelling too. Lots of information. You can find out what his name is, e-mail him, etc., but he has no particular authority to write this page. Also, there is the whole question of conspiracy theories – must give such sites a lot of thought before accepting what is written.

###### *NB: please note that these URLs may not be correct due to the continually changing nature of the Internet. If you cannot find these same sites, or if they no longer appear to be suitable, feel free to select sites of your own.*