

Research, Rights and Reliability

Use the internet to find the answers to these five questions. You only have five minutes!
Type your answers below:

1. How many varieties of apple are there in the world?
2. What does the girl's name 'Maya' mean?
3. Who is the oldest person in the world?
4. Can you find an artistic photograph of the Eiffel Tower?
5. Can you find out if the children's book *Shadowsmith* is a really good read or not?

Once you have found the answers, consider these questions:

- What did you do to complete the task?
- Where did you find the information and where did you find the picture?
- How do you think people dealt with this kind of research before the internet?

Before the internet, it took time to look up in a book, or call someone, or write to someone. The same task could have taken someone hours, or even days, to complete, even just 20 years ago.

How do you know your answers are correct? How do we know that the information we are finding is accurate and reliable?

Publishing online is different to book publishing through a publishing house – this is all checked and approved, whereas anyone can set up a website and populate it with information.

How do we know we are allowed to use the image? Copyright law covers online images – this is when people take a photo, they own the right for it to be published - you need permission from them or to purchase the right to use the image, unless it is explicitly available for free. Some sites allow you to use images for free (BBC schools is happy for images to be used by pupils for educational purposes) and there are other sites that allow this too.

Written text should also **not** be copied directly, (unless fully referenced) – this is plagiarism (claiming someone else's work or words as your own). We have talked about this in class when you have been carrying out research about how you cannot copy and paste large chunks of text from websites into your work.

Whilst the World Wide Web is an incredible source of information, we need to respect it and be source savvy.

Today, you will be adding another section to your quiz about 'Research, Rights and Reliability'.

Challenge one – Image Scenarios: Look at the images and their sources (see links below) and decide which are copyright free and which are not.

Which can be used for homework or education purposes?

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cat_Janna.jpg

<http://shotphotos.com/russian-blue-cat-walking-on-wood/>

www.gettyimages.ae/detail/photo/british-blue-cat-royalty-free-image/185290880

Now consider these scenarios:

You search for something and it comes up saying that you cannot access it and will have to change settings. What do you do?

1. Change settings?
2. Come back out from the site?

You come across a news story that states that some readers may find the content/images distressing. What do you do?

1. Carry on anyway, you have been warned and you are not worried
2. Come away from that page and decide it is not for you

You gain access to something with distressing or 'bad' images. What do you do?

1. Tell an appropriate adult (they can block the site – the settings may not be correct, as well as ensure that you are ok)
2. Leave the site and hope you don't come across anything like that again
3. Continue on the site assuming it was just that one image or content

Challenge two – Reliable websites: Wikipedia sometimes gets a 'bad name' for reliability. The following statements from Wikipedia try to address this:

We trust human nature - we try to make the assumption that most people contributing are doing so in a valid, accurate and useful way.

Studies to monitor reliability - we have had lots of studies carried out to check the reliability of our information. It actually comes out at a high level of accuracy in comparable studies to academic sites and the like.

Suspend or lock pages - when pages are edited in a manner to cause harm, for example to say a political candidate, company or campaign, we may, on rare occasions, lock pages so that we can clarify information and prevent a loss of neutrality.

Ensure sources are included - we highlight on an article where sources are missing and ask contributors to help verify information by putting in citations.

We have a team of highly reliable volunteer contributors and checkers whom we trust - our main contributors do a lot of contributing and checking! As such, they have become part of the Wikipedia 'community' and we trust their judgements and 'professionalism'.

We trust human nature - we try to make the assumption that most people contributing are doing so in a valid, accurate and useful way.

The use of reliable sources of information is really important to Wikipedia. Have a go at finding reliable online information, just like they try to.

Three websites challenge: Look at the following websites about York and see if you can rank them from 1-3 according to how 'reliable' you think the information is. Choose one site for each 'rank' and give reasons as to why they are reliable or not. You may use the website reliability list (on the next page) to help you with your decisions and reasoning.

<https://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=1006021405851>

www.visitjork.org/

www.york.gov.uk/site/index.php

www.lonelyplanet.com/england/yorkshire/york

www.bbc.co.uk/weather/2633352

www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attractions-g186346-Activities-York_North_Yorkshire_England.html

www.visitbritain.com/en/Destinations-and-Maps/History-and-heritage/York.htm

www.independent.co.uk/commercial/visitjork

www.inyorkholidays.co.uk/about-york.html

Ranking rationale:

1 = most reliable and impartial information

2 = information is reliable but may be biased (e.g. a company selling something)

3 = information may or may not be reliable and may be someone's opinion

Extension challenge: Can you find further reliable sources of online information about a different UK city, county or region?

NOW COME UP WITH 1-2 QUESTIONS FOR EACH CHALLENGE TO ADD TO YOUR QUIZ

Website reliability list

- **Is it a well-known source of reliable information**, e.g. BBC, public museums, National Geographic.
- **Is there an author?** – this shows that the person who has written the information is confident enough in what they have written to include their name
- **Sources of information** – acknowledged and links to other sites/documents included
- **Domain** – some domains guarantee a certain type of organisation (e.g. .ac.uk or sch.uk is a university, school or educational provider, while .gov.uk is a UK government site). Other domains such as .com, .co.uk (e.g. www.theguardian.com/uk or www.bbc.co.uk) tend to be businesses and organisations while .org (e.g. www.childrenssociety.org.uk) is often used by charities. Although these business, organisation and charity sites are not unreliable, there may be a bias to the information presented and the manner in which it is presented. URLs that use different, less commonly acknowledged domains, may be less reliable
- **Site design** – often a well-designed site can indicate information may be more reliable, but not always
- **Site maintenance and standardisation** - A reliable site will be looked after and kept up to date. It will not, for example, have broken links to pages or poor spelling and grammar. The writing style will be consistent and clear. There should also be a 'last updated' date visible which tells you if the information is current
- **Your agenda vs a website's agenda** – depending on what you are looking for you will need to decide if the 'purpose' of what might be a reliable website is reliable for the type of information you are after. For example, if you are looking for peoples' opinions on tourist destinations then blogs and review sites are what you need, but if you simply want a spread of factual information you may find a tourist information or government run site gives you less biased information