

Continued Relevancy in the Classroom: Using Wikipedia to Teach Information Literacy to University Students

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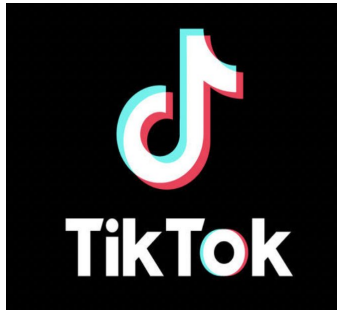
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November 11, 2023, Toronto Reference Library

Agenda

1. How students access information
2. Information literacy in academia today
3. Wikipedia's continued relevance for information literacy
4. How Wikipedia is integrated to a new course on information literacy at USC
 - a. ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education
 - b. Alignment with the Framework and the Wikipedia Assignment
 - c. Addressing both academic and non-academic information
 - d. Engaging in peer-to-peer active learning
 - e. Sharing information literacy skills on social media as a group project

How students find information today



- **TikTok:** 67% of U.S. teens use TikTok and many use it as their search engine for products, services, news, academic coursework
- Results seem more "relevant" because a person is delivering the information rather than a list of search results; convenient; easy-to-understand
- Students assess the veracity of info based on comments posted in response to the videos.
- Goal: keep users on the app and rarely leave it to check the information elsewhere for verification

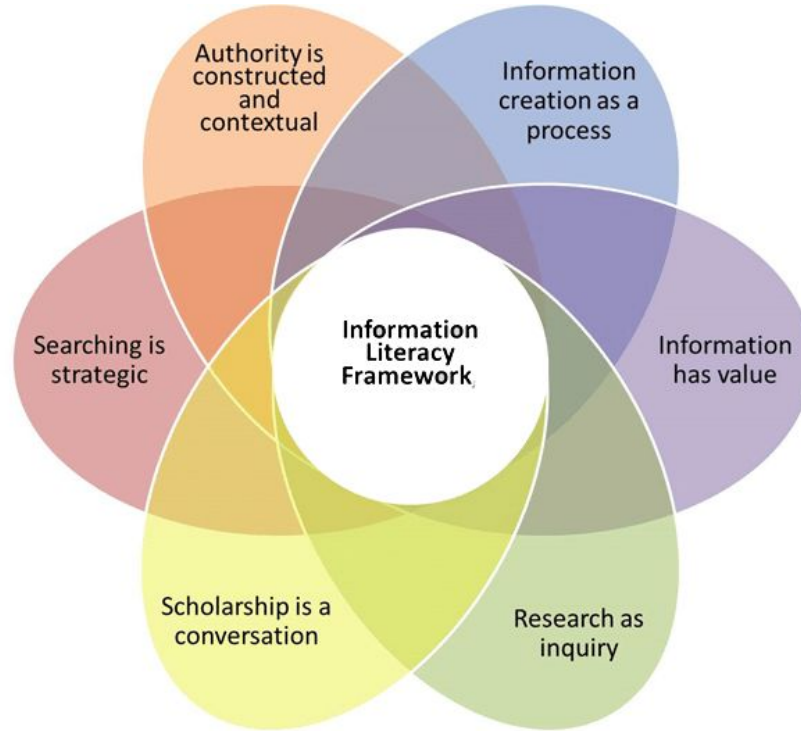


- **ChatGPT:** Over 50% of college students in the US say they use it; over 50% say that using ChatGPT for their college assignments is wrong
- Uses: research, writing, thesis generation, evidence, "brainstorming"
- Unclear how students assess veracity
- Unclear how the product arrives at answers
- Goal: "customer satisfaction" rather than facts or verifiable information

How many instructors currently teach information literacy

[Project Information Literacy \(PIL\)](#), a nonprofit research institute, notes that coursework in information literacy at the university level is usually limited to academic research methods; students are not taught how to manage the "torrent of information flowing through search engines and social media... even in courses emphasizing critical thinking and information literacy."

Partnering with Libraries



Research Process



Information life cycle

Research process

Information resources (more than just scholarly articles and books)

Searching Best Practices



Developing Keywords

Boolean Operators

Filtering

Citing Sources

Citation Management

Evaluating Information

EVALUATING SOURCES: THE CRAAP TEST

C

Currency

Is the information up to date?

Does it reflect current research?

Check the date of publication!

R

Relevance

Is the material about your topic or tangential?

Don't waste time reading material that isn't on topic!

A

Accuracy

How do you know if the information is accurate?

Is the data reliable?

Check it against other sources!

A

Authority

Who wrote the information?
Are they an expert in their field?
Can you trust what they say?
Do they explain or reference the information they use?

P

Purpose

Why did the author write the information?
Are they trying to sell you something or impose their own opinion?
Are they biased?

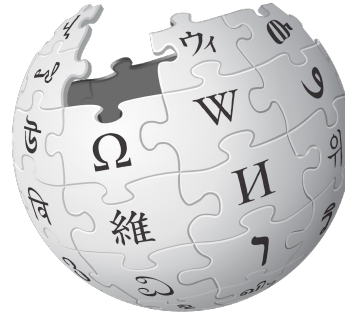
Instruction, Engagement, Outreach Partnerships between Librarians and Faculty

STEMM Research Workshops

Edit a thons

Research consultations

Wikipedia for academic and non-academic information literacy



WIKIPEDIA The Free Encyclopedia

- **Wikipedia and academic approaches share a familiar context**
 - **genre conventions**
 - **citations**
 - **"traditional approach to truth claims"**

- **Wikipedia's collaborative and open access values of the early Internet still intact today**
- **Open access and crowdsourcing mechanisms are familiar to social media users**

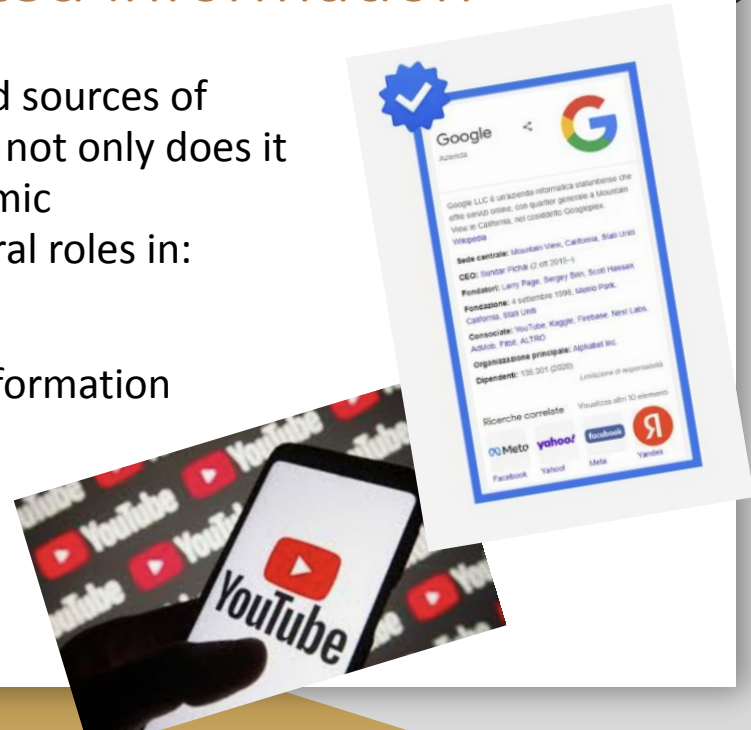
EIS 103: Navigating Digital Misinformation

- Goal: teach information literacy on both academic and non-academic platforms
- Annotated bibliography assignment/ library research
- Wikipedia study
- Digital literacy plan using social media or Wikipedia or YouTube
- Group presentations/collaboration

Wikipedia's continued relevance as a source of verifiable and human-generated information

As one of the few open access and human-generated sources of knowledge, Wikipedia is more important than ever - not only does it serve as a bridge between academic and non-academic informational literacy - but it continues to play integral roles in:

1. Google searches - knowledge panels
2. Warnings on YouTube videos that spread misinformation
3. Datasets used to train LLMs like ChatGPT
4. Model collapse



As the internet becomes flooded with synthetically generated information removed from facts - Wikipedia and the people who make it happen are more important than ever!



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Thank you!

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