Join Today's Presentation on the backchannel

http://www.todaysmeet.com/WebEvaluation

Is It Worth My Time?

Tips for Evaluating Websites, or Don't Believe Everything You Find on The Internet!

The Web is like a flea market. There is much to choose from but not all is quality. Some sites are offered by reputable "dealers" but many are not.

Look for a hidden treasure, but watch for sites which waste your time.

The Internet is also compared to. . .

- A Blizzard

- A Sea

- Where you can get lost in the storm of information

- Where waves of choices can suck you in

What is the Point?

There is a lot to choose from. . . . . .

Be Selective!

THINK!

When in doubt, Doubt!

Remember:

• Anyone can post anything on the web.
• No one polices the web.
• Your job is to decide which sites are reliable and which are questionable.

How can you do that?

A Good Place to Start is the URL. What Can it Tell you?

- Is this someone's personal web page? Look for names, ~ (tilde), % in the URL.

- What type of domain does it come from? .gov, .mil, .edu, .org, .com, .de

- Who is the publisher? Look between http:// and first/ http//:www.nytimes.com/

Criteria for Website Evaluation

Five questions to ask about the website OR W^5

WHO

WHEN

WHAT

WHY

WHERE

WHO? (Authority)

- **Who wrote the page?**
  - Is there a name of the author, an organization, or institution ?

- **What are their qualifications?**
  - Is the author an expert on the topic? (Google the name or organization to find out more)

- **Are there any of the following links?**
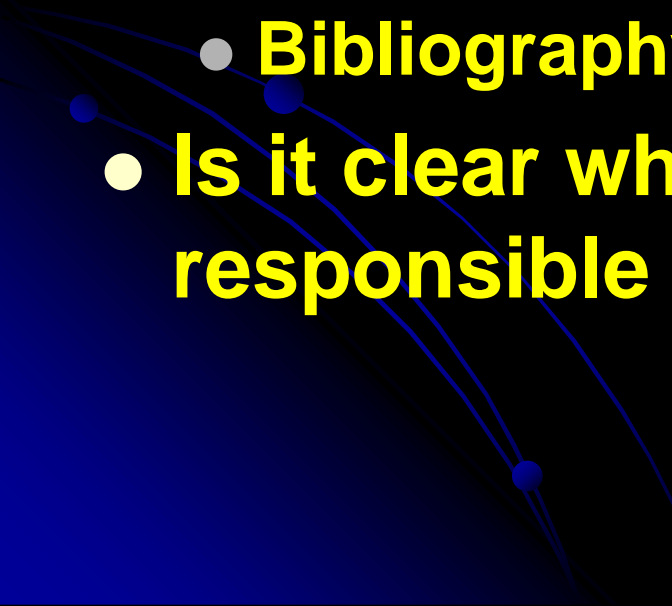 - about us, background, biography, our mission, email address

REMEMBER…

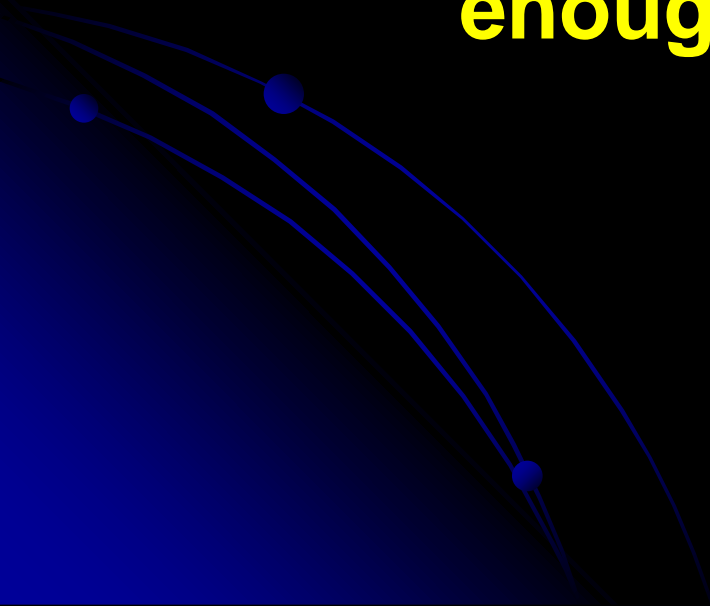Personal sites may be more likely to present opinion than fact.

WHAT? (Objectivity)

- **What is the purpose of the site?**
  - **Educate, entertain, persuade, advertise, inform. . .**
- **Is the information accurate?**
  - **No conflicting information**
- **Is it clear?**
  - **Easy to read**
  - **Uncluttered**
  - **Free of spelling and grammar errors**
- **Is it unbiased?**
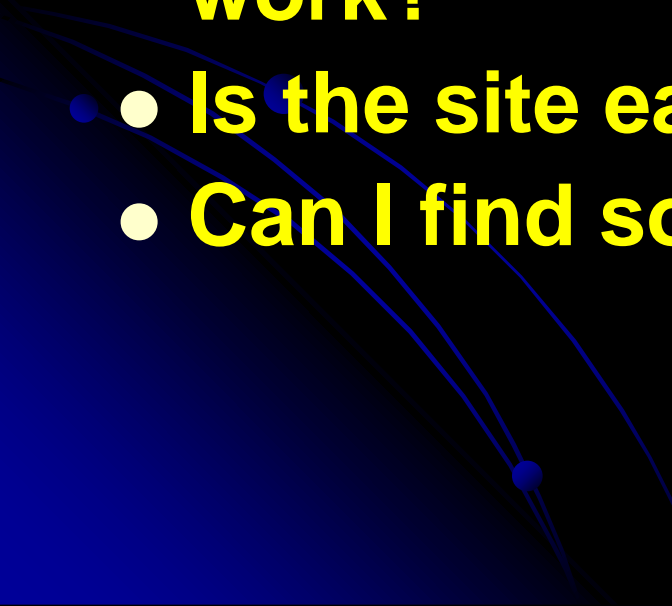 - **Gender, racial, religious…**

WHERE?

- **Where does the information come from?**
  - **Is there a list of citations/sources?**
- **Where can I go for more information?**
  - **Links**
  - **Bibliography**
- **Is it clear what group or organization is responsible for the site?**

WHEN? (Currency)

- **When was the site created?**
- **When was it updated?**
- **Is the information current enough for my purposes?**
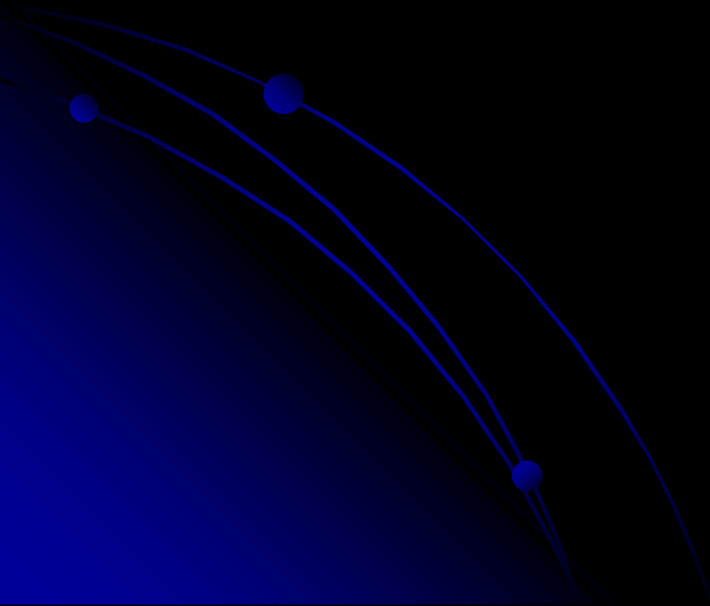
WHY?

- **Why should I use this information?**
  - **Everything so far PLUS**

- **Are there related links and do they work?**
- **Is the site easy to use and effective?**
- **Can I find something better?**

Evaluate Some of These Sites

- Dog Island Free Forever
- Dogs and More Dogs
- Facts About the Civil War
- Global Climate Change
- McWhortle Enterprises, Inc.
- Save the Pacific Northwest Tree Octopus
- Kauai Cave Wolf Spider

Links to Reliable Sources!
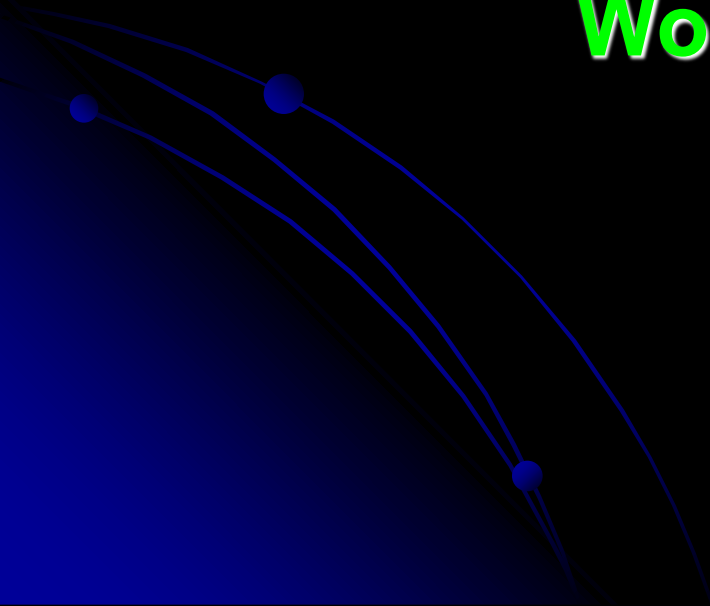## KCHS Library Web Page

Resources Available @ KPBSD

Discovery

Education

World Book Online

Digital Pipeline

Citing Sources

- Citing your sources, or giving credit to whomever created what you are using, is an essential part of becoming a thinking, responsible user of *INFORMATION!*

- Many reliable sources include citation information for you to copy & paste.

- There are plenty of "Tools" to help you create citations when you need to.

Citation Tools

- <u>Citation Machine</u>

- <u>EasyBib</u> – Only "gives" MLA format for free, but has a great <u>Guide</u> section. Also has a really cool App for creating citations for books.

- Further reading on <u>Website Evaluation</u> from easybib.com

References

Evaluating web pages: Techniques to apply & questions to ask. (2011). UC Berkeley Library. Retrieved September 9, 2011, from

http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Evaluate.html

McKenzie, J. (2010). Why we still need libraries and librarians. *From Now On: The Education Technology Journal*. Retrieved September 10, 2010, from http://fno.org/mar2010/still.html

Schrock, K. (2007). The ABC's of web site evaluation. Retrieved August 10, 2010, from http://kathyschrock.net/abceval/